

CONVENTION PROCEEDINGS

November 13-15, 1986

Kansas City, Missouri

EXCELLENCE

Made in the FFA. This was the heart and soul of the 59th National FFA Convention. Members, guests, supporters and friends of the FFA showed just what the FFA makes. It makes leaders for our communities and the industry of agriculture. Leaders in all phases of agriculture could be seen emerging in the programs, projects and attitudes of FFA members, advisors/teachers and supporters. Many people received rewards and recognition, but more important, many others saw what is available and possible through the FFA.

May we all go home and encourage the FFA to make more so that we, agriculture and the country will benefit!



MADE IN THE FFA.



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1986-87 National FFA Officers



Kevin Yost
Secretary

Kevin Yost, 20, of DeWitt, Nebraska, is the National FFA Secretary for 1986-87. His local advisors are Marc Wittstruck and Ken Malone Kevin, the son of Marvin and Gladys Yost, is a member of the Tri County FFA Chapter.

Before being elected state president, he served as chapter reporter and vice president and participated in parliamentary procedure, demonstration and livestock judging contests. Kevin's Supervised Occupational Experience program included a purebred and commercial cow/calf operation, hay and sorghum production and his own artificial insemination business.

Kevin will take a one-year leave of absence from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where he is a junior majoring in agribusiness and animal science. He plans a career in marketing and human resources. Kevin Yost, Route 2, Box 70, DeWitt, Nebraska 68341



Daren Coppock
Western Region
Vice President

Daren Coppock, 20, of Adams, Oregon, is the National FFA Vice President for the Western Region for 1986-87. His local advisor is William Peal. Daren, the son of Mr. & Mrs. Larry Coppock, is a member of the Pendleton FFA Chapter.

Before being elected state president, he won the state extemporaneous public speaking contest. He served as district president and participated in soil, crop and livestock judging contests. Daren's Supervised Occupational Experience program included wheat, barley, market steers, sheep and a small herd of registered shorthorn cattle.

Daren will take a one-year leave of absence from Oregon State University where he is a junior majoring in agriculture economics. Upon completion of college, he plans a career in agricultural finance or commodity marketing. Daren Coppock, P.O. Box 92, Adams, OR 97810



Dean Harder
Central Region
Vice President

Dean Harder, 20, of Mountain Lake, Minnesota, is the National FFA Vice President for the Central Region for 1986-87. His local advisors are Thomas D. Appel and James P. Crawford. Dean, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald J. Harder, is a member of the Mountain Lake FFA Chapter.

Before being elected state president, he served as chapter president and district treasurer. He participated in parliamentary procedure, public speaking and judging contests. Dean's Supervised Occupational Experience program included a purebred Suffolk sheep flock.

Dean will take a one-year leave of absence from the University of Minnesota where he is a junior majoring in agribusiness education. Upon completion of college, he plans to teach vocational agriculture and farm. Dean Harder, Route 2, Box 227, Mountain Lake, MN 55159



Wiley Lotlin
Eastern Region
Vice President

Wiley Lotlin, 20, of Denton, North Carolina, is the National FFA Vice President for the Eastern Region for 1986-87. His local advisor is Ronald Keypley Wiley, the son of Mr. & Mrs. W. J. Lotlin, is a member of the Denton FFA Chapter.

Before being elected state president, he served as chapter, district and federation officer. He participated in parliamentary procedure, land judging and poultry contests. Wiley's Supervised Occupational Experience program involves managing and operating a 80-acre dairy farm. His work on the dairy farm combined with his involvement with vegetable crops, landscape management and work on other farms earned recognition in a variety of proficiency areas.

Wiley will take a one-year leave of absence from North Carolina State University where he is a junior majoring in agricultural education. He plans to teach vocational agriculture. Wiley Lotlin, P.O. Box 123, Denton, N.C. 27239



Kevin Eblen
President

Kevin Eblen, 20, of Creston, Iowa, is the National FFA President for 1986-87. His local advisor is Galen Zumbach. Kevin, the son of Mr. & Mrs. Donald J. Eblen, is a member of the Creston FFA Chapter.

Before being elected state president, he served as state secretary, district vice president and reporter and held numerous chapter offices. He participated in public speaking, parliamentary procedure, and a variety of other leadership and judging contests.

Kevin's Supervised Occupational Experience program included corn, soybeans and beef production. He also managed his own agribusiness and worked for his father's farm drainage construction business. He was Iowa's candidate for Star Agribusinessman of America.

Kevin will take a one-year leave of absence from Iowa State University where he is a sophomore majoring in public service and administration in agriculture. Kevin Eblen, Route 4, Box 24, Creston, Iowa 50801



Jayme Feary
Southern Region
Vice President

Jayme Feary, 21, of Falkville, Alabama, is the National FFA Vice President for the Southern Region for 1986-87. His local advisor is B. W. Bryan. Jayme, the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. T. R. Russell, is a member of the Falkville FFA Chapter.

After his election to state office, he served as chapter vice president. He's been involved in steer shows, quartet, livestock and public speaking contests.

Jayme's Supervised Occupational Experience program included cattle, goats, horses and forage crops.

Jayme will take a one-year leave of absence from Auburn University where he is a junior majoring in agricultural education. Jayme Feary, Route 1, Box 125, Falkville, AL 36822

National Officer Candidates



Alabama: Jayme W. Feary, Falkville; **California:** Daria W. Court, Santa Paula; **Colorado:** M. Troy McCue, Arriba; **Florida:** James R. Meers, Blountstown; **Georgia:** Marshall Bennett, Jr., Adel; **Idaho:** Brett W. Reynolds, Kuna; **Illinois:** Charles M. Schone, Bluffs; **Iowa:** Kevin L. Eblen, Creston; **Kansas:** Daryl Yarrow, Clay Center; **Kentucky:** Kelly R. Smith, Bowling Green; **Maryland:** Sarah Osborn, Keymar; **Massachusetts:** Michael Richard, Lynn; **Michigan:** Bartley Marshall, Allen; **Minnesota:** Dean Harder, Mountain Lake; **Mississippi:** Duane Weems, Laurel; **Missouri:** Max Robert Aleger, Stratford; **Montana:** J. Bruce Glennie, Judith Gap; **Nebraska:** Kevin Yost, DeWitt; **North Carolina:** Wiley J. Lotlin, Jr., Denton; **Ohio:** Douglas Phillips, Kenton; **Oregon:** Daren Coppock, Adams; **Pennsylvania:** Laurie Jo Duran, Biglerville; **South Carolina:** Brana J. Williams, Hemmingway; **South Dakota:** Michelle Roper, Clear Lake; **Tennessee:** Rector Miller, Latoliette; **Texas:** Jay Hays, Wolfe City; **Utah:** Trudy Phillips, Springville; **Virginia:** Richard Owen, Calhoun; **Washington:** April Cargill, Kennewick; **Wisconsin:** Cheryl Helmeid, Blanchardville; **Wyoming:** Charles Byers, Gillette

Proceedings

Editors Box

Volume VI

The 59th National FFA Convention PROCEEDINGS is published by the National FFA Center Information Department as an official publication of the National FFA Organization.

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The 59th National FFA Convention PROCEEDINGS is the official printed proceedings of the National FFA Convention, held annually in Kansas City, Missouri. It is published the last day of the convention.

The FFA is the national organization of students preparing for careers in production agriculture and agribusiness. The FFA is in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Education, Washington, DC.

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Additional copies of the 59th National FFA PROCEEDINGS are available through the National FFA Supply Service.

The 59th National FFA Convention PROCEEDINGS Staff is headquartered in the FFA Newsroom in the Little Theatre at the Municipal Auditorium.

Photographers

Photographers assisting with the FFA PROCEEDINGS included: Mike Wilson, Drin Wagner, Dale Lightfoot, Andy Markwart, Kristi Kountz, Cynthia Iden and Thad Welch.

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Volunteers Saluted

Every year there are hundreds of volunteers who are the backbone of the national convention. The National FFA Organization would like to express our warmest and deepest thanks to those people who make the convention happen. Hard work and long hours are only the beginning. "Thank you very much! Thank you! Thanks to the Courtesy Corps, Stage Crew, News Crew, News Corps, contest helpers, K-Agvisory Board and all the others too numerous to mention who are very much appreciated."

National FFA Foundation

Bill Munsell, 1986 Foundation Chairman, announced that their 1986 fund raising achieved a record \$2,500,000. Munsell said, "We asked all those who believe in FFA to stand up for American agriculture. Our sponsors answered that call with generosity." Since 1944, the National FFA Foundation has provided more than \$21 million to FFA members for merit awards, leadership and citizenship activities. FFA films and international travel. Bob Langhrie, President and Chairman of Dickey-John Corporation, was named 1987 national FFA Foundation Chairman.

Distinguished Service Citations



This year four organizations received the Distinguished Service Citation in recognition for their exceptional service to the FFA by contributing time, money and personnel. They were:

Chevrolet Motor Corporation of Warren, Michigan. Chevrolet has provided a chairman for the National FFA Foundation, Inc. and the company sponsors the FFA State

Presidents Conference for state officers each year in Washington, D.C. This year, Chevy donated an "FFA Blue and Gold" pick-up truck to the National FFA Center.

Farm Aid, of Austin, Texas. Farm Aid provided grant visibility for the agricultural sector and the FFA organization through its televised music special. With proceeds from their concert, Farm Aid supporters provided a \$30,000 grant and a \$300,000 endowment to go toward scholarships for FFA members.

The Fort Osage Vocational Technical School of Independence, Missouri. This school annually provides the site equipment and staff for the National FFA Agricultural Mechanics contests. More than 170 FFA members and industry and educational leaders meet at the school for the contests.

Interstate Printers and Publishers, Inc. of Danville, Illinois. Interstate is a major publisher of secondary vocational agriculture and agriculture teacher-education texts. The company has supported the organization through many years of FFA, educational and professional publications.

VIP Citations



The following six individuals were honored with the 1986 National FFA VIP Citation for their continual support and service to the FFA:

Robert M. Book, president of the Indiana Institute of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition, Inc., Indianapolis, Indiana. Book is a past chairman of the National FFA Foundation, Inc., and he serves on The National Council for Vocational and Technical Education in Agriculture. After 28 years at Elanco Products, Inc., he retired as vice president of marketing. Through Elanco, Book secured funding for FFA's first television special and presented it as a public relations activity to the National Agricultural Marketing Association (NAMA). He was named NAMA's Ag Marketer of the Year and was awarded FFA's Honorary American Farmer degree in 1983.

George R. Burg, Kansas City, Missouri, assistant to the publisher of the Kansas City Star. During the 38 years Burg has worked for the Kansas City Star Company, he has secured publication of FFA

Convention news and information, and he has supported the organization as a member of Kansas City area FFA committees and advisory groups. He has hosted national FFA officers and national staff during stays in Kansas City. And he has supported corporate representatives judging the candidates for Star Farmer and Star Agri-businessman at the National FFA Convention each year in Kansas City.

George Eib, Kansas City, Missouri, superintendent for forestry and landscaping at the Kansas City Parks and Recreation Department. In 1976, Eib was a member of the committee that organized the first National FFA Horticulture Contest and was instrumental in establishing the national nursery/landscape, floriculture and forestry contests. He served as president and a board member of the National Professional Grounds Management Society and as a board member of the Missouri Parks and Recreation Society. Eib is a recipient of the FFA's Honorary American Farmer degree and Distinguished Service award.

Larry Judy, Kansas City, Kansas, systems programmer for United Telephone System, United Data Services, Inc. Judy formed and placed into operation the computer-scoring system for the National FFA Contests held each year during the convention. Through his system, the judging scores of more than 400 contest participants are scored and ranked. Judy also donates time and expertise to state FFA associations as well as assistance on the national level. He previously worked for the American Herford Association in Kansas City.

Robert Taylor, Silver City, New Mexico, past executive director of the National Center for Research in Vocational Education at The Ohio State University at Columbus. This year Taylor retires after 20 years heading the Center and 35 years of service to vocational education on the local, state, national and international levels. He was a national FFA officer and Oregon state president during the 1940s. He served as the Arizona state executive secretary and is the co-author of the book "The FFA and You." Taylor has already received the Honorary American Farmer degree and the FFA Distinguished Service award.

Harold Haynes, retired vocational agriculture instructor from North Troy, Vermont. Haynes will be recognized for his 47 years of teaching vocational agriculture. During his early years of teaching, Haynes' classes welded and canned as part of the war effort. In 1984, with money his vo-ag students raised, Haynes led the drive to buy and develop a 65-acre "Land Lab." Haynes guides FFA members in raising Christmas trees, growing apples and even building trails on his Lab. He has taught third-generation vo-ag students in the North Troy and Newport schools.

Convention Speakers



The 59th National FFA Convention featured a variety of speakers and topics during the three days. U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Richard Lyng addressed the audience as well as motivational speaker Bob Moawad, sponsored by ConAgra, Inc., and Bruce Jenner, Olympic decathlon champion co-sponsored by Ford Division—Ford Motor Company and Ford Tractor Operations. FFA members and guests also heard from Susan Forte, FFA Advisor and Teacher in Space finalist and Jack Anderson, President, Young Astronauts Program and news commentator.

Computers in Agriculture Award

Sponsored by AgriData Resources, Inc.

State Finalists

Alabama: Tim Williams, Hueytown; **Arizona:** Andrew Duveido, Douglas; **Arkansas:** George G. Copeland, Everton; **California:** James Jorge, Santa Maria; **Colorado:** Lance Scott, Burlington; **Connecticut:** Elizabeth Bassett, Coventry; **Florida:** H. Christopher Tompkins II, Riverview; **Georgia:** Rodney Lamar Chandler, Hull; **Idaho:** Crystal Longfellow, Kendrick; **Illinois:** Chris Leman, Rockrose; **Iowa:** Dale Brobst, Estherville; **Kansas:** Van S. Zander, Topeka; **Kentucky:** Bill Pruden, Dowsboro; **Louisiana:** Travis Warren Smith, Mt. Hermon; **Maine:** Kenneth Page, Limestone; **Michigan:** Douglas Lee Pennington, Charlevoix; **Minnesota:** Glenn A. Switzer, Northfield; **Mississippi:** Brett Wilder, Carthage; **Missouri:** Roger Neill, Shelby; **Montana:** Lisa Jo Coulston, Bainville; **Nebraska:** Rodney Strieder, Ravenna; **Nevada:** Jim Carpenter, Eiko; **New Jersey:** Michelle Rowd, Sewell; **New Mexico:** Tod Pinnell, Mesquite; **New York:** Tim Durand, North Carolina; **North Carolina:** Robert Crabg Jr., Milton; **North Dakota:** Darren Heyme, Kendrick; **Ohio:** Raymond J. Ulrich II, Cincinnati; **Oklahoma:** Eddie Sikes, Kingston; **Oregon:** Tony Schwartz, Powell Butte; **Pennsylvania:** M. Abraham Harsper, Spruce Creek; **South Carolina:** Patrick E. Settle, Inman; **South Dakota:** David Bierschbach, Webster; **Tennessee:** Anita Golden, Arthur; **Texas:** Chris Cogburn, Happy; **Utah:** Neil Brown, Santaquin; **Vermont:** Claude Parent, Ensbury Falls; **Virginia:** Warren David Reed, Jr., Dillwyn; **Washington:** Mike Gibson II, Tenino; **West Virginia:** Dave Ferra, Sandyville; **Wisconsin:** John Fritz, Fenimore; **Wyoming:** Froste Sprout, Lander



The 1986 National FFA Computers in Agriculture Seminar was held August 10-14, in Washington, DC, to recognize the top FFA members for their achievements and progress in utilizing computers. All of the state Champions in Agriculture winners received an expense paid trip to the National FFA Computers in Agriculture Award Seminar.

The award program recognizes FFA members who have achieved and made great progress in utilizing computers in agriculture and agribusiness. Students are judged on their ability to adapt computer technology to benefit their Supervised Occupational Experienced Program and/or local FFA Chapter.

National Winner—Van S. Zander, Washburn Rural FFA Chapter, Topeka, Kansas
1st Runner-Up—H. Christopher Tompkins, Brandon FFA Chapter, Riverview, Florida
2nd Runner-Up—Chris Leman, Rockrose-Benson FFA Chapter, Rockrose, Illinois
3rd Runner-Up—John Fritz, Fenimore FFA Chapter, Fenimore, Wisconsin
4th Runner-Up—Patrick E. Settle, Dorman FFA Chapter, Inman, South Carolina

Official Delegates



These state associations members represent the entire FFA membership in policy development, committees and voting on the convention floor. The number of delegates representing each state is proportional to their overall membership with a minimum of two delegates.

Alabama: Bronwyn Bishop, Wedowee; **Rick Dorman, Leverage; Brad Lewis, Elkmont; Alaska:** Robert Powalski, Two Rivers; **Mike Smith, Fairbanks; Arizona:** Leigh Loughhead, Buckeye; **Dan Mellon, Yuma; Arkansas:** Leigha Fox, Hartford; **Bruce Westernman, Lonsdale; California:** Luaine Blacker, Williams; **Steven Davis, Santa Paula; Alison Demmer, Colusa; Nicholas Wells, Hollville; Colorado:** Roger Seedorf, Yuma; **Brent Viesel-meyer, Arnhem; Connecticut:** Kerry Chalker, Harwinton; **Nomi Peckham, E. Haddam; Delaware:** John Barrett, Camden-Wyoming; **Daria Degano, Wyming; Florida:** Chris Wilder, Lakeland; **Adrian Williams, Lake Butler; Georgia:** Greg Long, Ball Ground; **Stephen Tinsley, Homerville; Hawaii:** Keith Fukukawa, Kailua; **Duh, Raynette Halemau, Kailua-Kona; Idaho:** Jack Blathner, Meridian; **Michelle Davis, Nampa; Illinois:** Bill Hollis, Bushnell; **Scott Kurlman, Mt. Sterling; Indiana:** Michael Butler, Tristalgar; **Scott Slump, Trafalgar; Iowa:** Maureen Barber, DeWitt; **Matthew Mutselman, Bloomfield; Kansas:** Cara Nick, Grid, Kentucky: Eddie Burks, Smith's Grove; **Brad Chambliss, Hardinsburg; Louisiana:** Michael McIntosh, Bernice; **Chris Reeves, Jennings; Maine:** Brent Burk, Mapleton; **Frank Winslow, Presque Isle, Maryland:** Wayne Ceszra, Clearville; **Mark Hoper, Frederick; Massachusetts:** Christine Leuke, Marlboro; **Melissa Lopez, Taunton; Michigan:** Wanda Burr, Deckerville; **Ron Hostetter, Burr Oak; Minnesota:** Brian Hicks, Tracy; **Amy Polkowski, Byron; Mississippi:** Wayne Thompson, Mize; **Ray Nash, Corinth; Missouri:** Eddie Miller, Gerald; **Brian Mathis, Ridgeway; Montana:** Romeo Carrocca, Big Timber; **Michael Mitton, Miles City; Nebraska:** David Dim, Lincoln; **Scott Stacks, Lincoln; Mary Wilson, Lebanon; Nevada:** Noel

Bondo, Eiko; Joe Payne, Eiko; New Hampshire: Rick Martineau, Dover; **Michelle Sargent, Seabrook; New Jersey:** Daines Symons, Robbinston; **New Mexico:** Marilyn Copeland, St. Vrain; **Dan Fritz, Melrose; New York:** Perry Denton, Moravia; **Cherie Engelbrecht, Madison; North Carolina:** C.J. Elms, Bunnville; **Mickey McCall, Balsam Grove; Hugh Solomon, Williamson; North Dakota:** Ellen Thomas, Mandan; **Marci Volk, Knox; Ohio:** Joyce Scott, Tontogany; **Scott Sooy, Grafton; Jeff Vance, Hillsboro; Oklahoma:** Carrie Brown, Lawton; **Terry Lynn Hames, Norman; Lisa Millap, Lexington; Oregon:** Katharine Reed, Vale; **Wesley Sand, Roseburg; Pennsylvania:** Sheila Bidde, Williamsburg; **Bill Blank, Parkersburg; Maryland:** Maryann Vogt, Doylestown; **Maryann Vogt, Doylestown; Puerto Rico:** Jesus M. Marte, Jayuya; **Pedro A. Rivera, Florida; Rhode Island:** Alicia Horan, North Kingstown; **Linda Telleust, Paw-tucket; South Carolina:** Patricia Port, Hemmingway; **William Ray, Neeses; South Dakota:** Michael J. Fossum, Canton; **Joe Halverson, Bancroft; Tennessee:** Philip Barber, Gordonsville; **Jeff Hamby, Benton; Texas:** Mike Acker, Cleburne; **Bruce Cobb, Lubbock; Julie Davis, Ack-ery; Teri Hardee, Bryan; Lee Harris, Ruski; Robert Pany, Houston; Utah:** Keith McDougall, West Jordon; **Dave Wilson, Lake Vermont; Claude Tremblay, Ensbury Falls; Mike Tremblay, Irasburg; Virginia:** Lee Arlington, Perishok; **Kathy Lindberg, Middleton; Washington:** Charles Estes, Startup; **Paula McKillop, Kennewick; West Virginia:** B. J. Elliott, Waverly; **Micky Elmore, Union; Wisconsin:** Rita Arcand, Clear Lake; **Darren Kluttsman, Mount Horeb; Lisa Blum, Bloomer; Wyoming:** Michael McNamee, Pine Bluffs; **Jim Wilcox, Douglas**

The Agricultural Career Recruitment Program

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ORDER FREE!

For more information stop by booth 726 in The Career Show

Sponsored by Monsanto Agricultural Products Co.

The Agricultural Career Recruitment Program

Sponsored by Monsanto Agricultural Products Co.

The new Agricultural Career Recruitment Program was introduced during the convention. A special audio-visual in the Main Area and a booth in the National Agricultural Career Show helped explain the program.

FFA Advisors nationwide will be able to order the recruitment program through a toll-free 800 number. The kits contain materials necessary to plan and implement persuasive presentations to junior high school students.

A brochure featuring detailed ordering instructions will be mailed to all FFA chapters immediately after the convention.

15, 25 & 35 Year Foundation Sponsors



These sponsors were recognized for their continuous contributions to the FFA through the National FFA Foundation, Inc.

15 Year Sponsors

ABC Publishing/Agricultural Group; Farm Progress Publications-Miller Publishing; Carolina Paper & Light Company; Diamond V Mills Incorporated; First-McNess Company; Land O'Lakes, Incorporated; MacMillan Bloedel Incorporated; National Cooperative Refinery Association; Nordien Laboratories

25 Year Sponsors

ICI America, Incorporated/Agricultural Chemical Division; Kansas City Life Insurance Company Charitable Trust; The Henry Krause Charitable Foundation; Philip Morris Incorporated; Phillips Petroleum Foundation, Incorporated; RJR Nabisco, Incorporated

35 Year Sponsors

Blue Bell Foundation; The Darby Corporation; First & Walker; New Idea Farm Equipment Corporation; Santa Fe Industries, Incorporated; Union Carbide Agricultural Products Company, Incorporated

Agri-Science Teacher of the Year Award

Sponsored by The Stauffer Agricultural Products Division of Chesebrough-Ponds, Inc.



This is the first time a program has recognized vo-ag instructors and given the award in the field of agri-science. A total of 103 vo-ag instructors applied for this first time award. In mid-October 42 state winners and twelve regional finalists were chosen. During the convention, the twelve was first narrowed to four and from those four the national winner was announced during the Friday morning session. The twelve regional finalists each received \$500 and a plaque. The final four each received inscribed clocks and \$750 to attend the AVA-NVATA National Convention in Dallas, Texas. Finally, the national winner received an additional \$1,000, a plaque, an all-expense paid tour of the Stauffer research facility and a plaque to be presented to their school.



National Winner— Steven Mckay, Booneville, California
Central Region Winner— Robert Mareth, El Dorado Springs, Missouri
Eastern Region Winner— David Moffitt, Morral, Ohio
Southern Region Winner— Susan Forte, Pensacola, Florida

National Finalists

California: Steven Alan McKay, Booneville; Susan Elizabeth Warren, Fort Greer; **Louisiana:** Charles E. Hogan, Choudrant; **Missouri:** Robert E. Mareth, El Dorado Springs; **New York:** Douglas Allen Wright, Buffalo; **Ohio:** David Moffitt, Morral; **Pennsylvania:** Frederick H. Spillwagen, Schnecksville; **South Carolina:** Charles Gerald Moore, Spartanburg; **South Dakota:** James Chilton, Roslyn; **Texas:** Steven William Forsythe, El Paso; **Washington:** Richard Lee Cooper, Vancouver; **Wisconsin:** David R. Laatsch, Beaver Dam; **California:** Steven Alan McKay, Booneville; **Florida:** Susan Elizabeth Warren, Fort Greer, Florida

Charles E. Hogan, Choudrant, Louisiana
Robert E. Mareth, El Dorado Springs, Missouri
Douglas Allen Wright, Buffalo, New York
David Moffitt, Morral, Ohio
Frederick H. Spillwagen, Schnecksville, Pennsylvania
Charles Gerald Moore, Spartanburg, South Carolina
James Chilton, Roslyn, South Dakota
Steven William Forsythe, El Paso, Texas
Richard Lee Cooper, Vancouver, Washington
David R. Laatsch, Beaver Dam, Wisconsin

Honorary American Farmer Degree



This degree was conferred in recognition of adults who have rendered exceptional service to youth, agricultural education and the FFA organization. Local advisors/teachers are a strong motivating force behind many members, and for their time, understanding and guidance, the FFA recognizes a special group of less than one per cent of them each year. Also receiving the degree are parents of national officers and other individuals from industry and government who have helped advance the FFA and agriculture through unlimited service on the national level.

Teachers

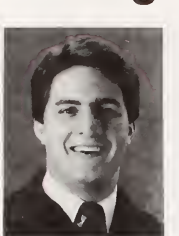
Alabama: William Armstrong, Gardendale; Michael Casey, Midland City; William Hines, Wetumpka; Terry Sisco, Geraldine; **Arizona:** Nathan Moore, Mesa; **California:** Joe Casenholo, Sanjour; Larry Capriles, Sutter; Leonard De Rutter, Hanford; T.W. "Jeff" Jeffery, Santa Maria; Ray Munir, Alwiler; Anthony Silva, Turlock; **Georgia:** Jimmy Mock, Blackshear; George Westberry, Clarkesville; Stanley Whitsett, Camesville; **Idaho:** Kenneth Lent, Rexburg; **Illinois:** Robert Brown, LaSalle; Mark Street, Ambury; **Indiana:** Philip Carter, Michigantown; Paul Edmiston, Sullivan; Michael Gross, Fort Wayne; **Iowa:** Franklin Albertson, Tama; Donald Kent Edgworthy, Dennis Kinley, Gowrie; **Kansas:** Chuck Smith, Cherveno; **Kentucky:** Arthur Egan, Elkhart; Leon Smiley, Harled; **Louisiana:** Ted Ardoin, Lafayette; James Weber, Harrisonburg; **Maryland:** Ralph Bolyard, Smithsburg; **Michigan:** Alan Steeby, Caledonia; Don Wheeler, Pigeon; **Minnesota:** Ben Broberg, Redwood Falls; Lowell Gunderson, Ada; Lee Mendham, New Richmond; Dennis Ross, Wadsworth; **Mississippi:** Lathan Walton, Nellyton; **Missouri:** Harold Bossaller, Kansas; Benjamin Fujita, Rogersville; Herman Pepper, Shelby; Jim Schulte, Troy; **Nebraska:** Marvin Monsen, Holdrege; **New Mexico:** Max Geary, Clayton; **North Carolina:** John Baldwin, Bladenburg; Raymond Cavness, Ranssauer; Jerry Davis, Marshville; **North Dakota:** Dale Carpenter, Bowman; **Ohio:** John Carl, Marysville; Dwan Frieels, Oxford; Dennis Parrish, Clayton; Ray Stemen, Lancaster; James Wahl, Xenia; **Minnesota:** Ferlan Dean, Yale; Glen Elliott, Avia; Kenneth Pichford, Fort Gibson; James Yesley, Shawnee; **Pennsylvania:** David Boyer, Grove City; **Rhode Island:** Thomas Sandham, North Kingstown; **Tennessee:** Marvin Pait, Martin; **Texas:** Donald Bumpers, Hearne; John Floyd, Gonzales; Richard Griffin, West; Ronel Roberts, Altair; Bill Wood, Abilene; Gerald Weller, Comal; Tommy Webb, Cleburne; Gerald Young, Katy; **Virginia:** J. Vince Garland, IV, Tappanhook; George Potts, Victoria; **Washington:** Mike Hickman, Elmo; **Wayne Wallace, Cheney, West Virginia:** Leonard Spiker, Keyser; **Wisconsin:** Stanley Bergum, Rice Lake; **Massachusetts:** Lucretia, Melven Nelson, Arcadia; **Wyoming:** Glen Johnson, Meeteetse

Others

Alabama: Wayne Teague, Alabama Dept. of Education, Montgomery; Don E. Thompson, Midland City; Virginia P. Thompson, Midland City; Elton Weaver, Hartselle; Joyce Weaver, Hartselle; **Alaska:** Carl Kurts, Son of Ag/Land Resources Mgt.; Fairbanks; **Arizona:** Richard Condit, Arizona Dept. of Education, Phoenix; Curt Dana, Mesa; Andy Kurtz, Arizona Farm Bureau, Phoenix; Philip Zurbrick, University of Arizona, Tucson; **California:** John Kyuloku, Salinas; Jennie Kyuloku, Salinas; Dick McMillan, House of Travel, Sacramento; **District of Columbia:** Ronald Buckhalt, U.S. Department of Ag., Washington; George James Castello, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington; James Cental, Architect of the Capitol, Washington; **Georgia:** Donald U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington; Marshall Livingston, House Agricultural Committee, Washington; Donald Nelson, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Washington; Pat Roberts, Washington; Shirley Traxler, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Washington; **Florida:** Glenn Wade, Jr., Bushnell; **Georgia:** James Harris, Forsyth Co. Comp. High School, Cumming; Charles Imman, Georgia State Fair, Macon; Don Register, Voc. Agriculture Education, Tilton; Mason Thurman, Union Camp Corp., Savannah; Dewey Turner, Jr., Georgia Association FFA, Atlanta; **Hawaii:** Larry Brannen, University of Idaho, Moscow; Gale Chambers, Idaho Farmer-Stockman, Boise; Douglas Pals, University of Idaho, Moscow; **Illinois:** William Borghoff, Case IH, A Tenneco Company, Burr Ridge; Philip Burski, Illinois State University, Normal; Warren Clark, Chicago; John Coy, John Deere Foundation, Moline; Thomas Deibel, Illinois Dept. of Agriculture, Springfield; Robert Hanson, Deere & Company, Moline; James Merzbarger, American Farm Bureau, Park Ridge; Ted Motz, Carl Sandburg College, Galesburg; **Indiana:** James Huxson, Jr., Central Nine Area Vo-Tech H.S., Greenwood; Robert Juncer, Indiana FFA Association, Indianapolis; Mack Phillips, Bruce Fox Inc., New Albany; Michael Potts, Ind. FFA Found. Lds. Ctr., Trafalgar; Gary Swann, Indiana Dept. of Commerce, Indianapolis; **Iowa:** Dean Ripley, N.E. Iowa Tech. Institute, Jackson; William Munst, CMF, Cedar Rapids; **Kansas:** Eugene Mail, Wilson; Frances Mail, Wilson; **Kentucky:** Lloyd Jackson, Murray State University, Murray; Rodney Tullioch, University of Kentucky, Lexington; **Maryland:** Louis Goldstein, State Treasury Bureau, Annapolis; Bruce Hotchkiss, Delmarva Farmer, Easton; Henry Milguy, University of Maryland, College Park; John Whisman, Calvert County, Inc., Port Republic; **Massachusetts:** Peter Johnson, Nicolson State, Wenham; **Minnesota:** Burge Andahl, Farm Direct Services, St. Paul; Joe Clifford, Land O' Lakes, Inc., Columbia Heights; **Wills Egan, Minnesota Farmers Union, St. Paul;** Dennis Fendak, Jackson Technical Institute, Jackson; David Hentz, Belgrade; Carol Henke, Belgrade; Dennis Jackson, Manakto Technical Institute, North Manakto; **North Carolina:** CENEX, St. Paul; Jack Lynch, KYLM, Willmar; Ralph Norland, Montevideo; Raymond Wolf, St. Paul; **Missouri:** William Coffman, Holiday, Rebecca Coffman, Holiday, Jimmy

Gieson, American Royal Association, Kansas City; Terry Herman, MO Dept. of Elem/Sec Educ., Jefferson City; W. M. Jones, Ralston Parina Co., St. Louis; Norman Justus, University of Missouri, Mt. Vernon; Henry Kupler, Kansas City; **Montana:** Douglas Bishop, Montana State University, Bozeman; **Nebraska:** Lloyd Bell, University of Nebraska, Lincoln; Don Hutchins, Nebraska Dept. of Agriculture, Lincoln; Jack Schriener, University of Nebraska, Lincoln; Tom Siletto, University of Nebraska, Lincoln; **New Jersey:** Richard Chumney, NJ Dept. of Agriculture, Trenton; **New Mexico:** Dwight Houston, Hurley; **New York:** Ronald Gardner, Agray, Inc., Syracuse; Frank Wolff, Nassau Technical Ctr., Westbury; **North Carolina:** Clifton Belcher, NC Dept. of Public Instruction, Raleigh; Walinda Godwin, Whiteville; Larry Jewell, N.C. State University, Raleigh; Carl Kensel, CIBA-GEIGY Corporation, Greensboro; Carlye Teague, Cooperative Council of N.C., Raleigh; **North Dakota:** Clarence Adams, Grand Forks; **Ohio:** Wayne Asche, Kent State University; Kent, William Essas, Anna Bonnie Essas, Anna, Russ McKenney, Maplewood JVS, Ravenna; Roger Redgey, Ohio State University, Columbus; Dan Wolski, Luckey Farmers, Inc., Woodville; **Oklahoma:** Jack Blair, Noble; Linda Blair, Noble; Donald Ramsey, Blue & Blue Sausage, Jones; **Oregon:** Billy Belamy, Oregon State Capitol, Salem; Cyrus Righter, Portland, Pennsylvania; Dale Davis, PA Department of Education, Allentown; Ernest D. Maier, Hamburg; Joyce F. Miller, Hamburg; William Robinson, Chambersburg; Kenneth Slaver, Palmyra; **South Carolina:** Carl Carpenter, Simpsonville; J. Earl Clark, Jr., Florence; J. Alex Hish, Clemson University, Clemson; John Parms, S.C. Land Resources Commission, Columbia; **South Dakota:** Leifund Swenson, South Dakota Farmers Union, Huron; **Tennessee:** Sam King, Kingma Productions, Inc., Winchester; Marilyn Kingma, Kingma Productions, Inc., Winchester; Jesse D. Wilkinson, White House; Nancy A. Wilkinson, White House; **Texas:** Perry Anderson, Texas A & M University, College Station; Raymond Agan, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville; William Bishop, Sr., Hearnes; Benny Clark, Texas FFA Association, Austin; William Kulow, Needville; Cody Shorter, Jr., Eagle Lake; Claude Shorter, Jr., Eagle Lake; Billy Steinhilber, Texas Education Agency, Austin; **Vermont:** Everett Hargis, University of Vermont, Burlington; William Robert Cantrell, Alexandria; Carol Caycedo, National FFA Center, Alexandria; John Cleveland, National FFA Foundation, Alexandria; George Morrow, State Fair Virginia, Richmond; **Washington:** John Todd, Weyerhaeuser Timber Company, Cosmopolis; **West Virginia:** Robert Zimmerman, West Virginia University, Morgantown; **Wisconsin:** Richard Jensen, Univ. of Wisconsin-River Falls; **Mother's Columns:** Mgr. Opt. Mineral Point; Shirley Spig, Mineral Point; Richard Weening, Agri-Data Resources, Inc., Milwaukee; **Wyoming:** Mured J. Petrich, Meriden

1985-86 National FFA Officer Retiring Addresses



"... And That Has Made All The Difference"

Rick Maier
1985-86 National FFA President

*I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood,
and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.*

Oh, how I can remember memorizing those famous words by Robert Frost in my high school English class. Little did I know what an influence they would eventually have on me as I stand here today. I see the many opportunities there we have as youth to go to school, to mold our future, to make the difference.

We enjoy many opportunities today because of those before us who dared to chart new courses. As many as 16 million immigrants dared to make a difference as they passed through the inspection halls of Ellis Island in New York Harbor.

These people made their way to this land cramped in ships to provide transportation. What type of individual would undertake a venture so arduous and uncertain as this? What type would take these brave people who left behind a lifestyle, family, and friends. Because of the required inspections and examinations, there was no absolute guarantee that they would ever set foot on American soil. This was a gamble that only one in ten Europeans dared to take in the first place. The majority stayed behind.

Like my grandparents, many of your ancestors dared to come to this country with no assurance of acceptance. Maybe it's because of that spirit that the typical American has been described by many as being more independent minded, less bound by constraints, innovative, and quick to adopt new ideas.

This great innovative drive evident in our forefathers is much in evidence today. I have witnessed this throughout the past year as the roads have taken me through the rain-drenched state convention in Maine to the sun-drenched one in New Mexico. Witnessing the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia, the rolling hills of Washington, or the Great Smoky Mountains of Tennessee.

These places aren't as important as the people I've come to know. Through my experiences with you, your resilient spirit has kept my spirits high.

The potential that we have is tremendous. We are potential. We have an organization is phenomenal because we have the opportunity to choose our road whether it be worn or new.

I've always firmly believed that the success of this organization lies in you the member—in the local chapter. That is why one year ago when my fellow officers and I asked if you would like me to address the challenges to guarantee priority for this organization, your overwhelming response left us with more enthusiasm to begin our new year.

This past year the agricultural industry has left us tried and challenged. The challenges of our industry have resulted in a need stronger than ever to examine our organization and to chart our road to the future. If we don't look a vision at the future, if we only stand still, we will fall behind.

As we recognize ourselves nationally as students pursuing education, I encourage, reading ourselves for the agricul-

tural industry, it becomes paramount to address these challenges and to seek exciting and new opportunities.

It is now time for me to pass the baton on to you to continue this race and to enhance the success of this organization. I've climbed my final FFA mountain. As I look back on my years in this organization, I realize that it is a means and not an end. In order for this organization's training to fulfill its purpose, we must plan and prepare to meet the challenges and opportunities before us. By using our training, we will make the difference.

My mother, Fran Maier, is a person of remarkable strength and courage. For while today she is healthy, vibrant, and successful, two decades ago Mom faced a most difficult battle. About 20 years ago, when Mom was a young mother of two small children, she became physically ill. She often didn't know where the voice, or who she was. Doctor after doctor could not diagnose her condition, and Mom felt even more alone when her friends and family could not understand her agony.

But worse than the five years she spent in treatment, hospitals, and undergoing therapy were the months when Mom was turned away from us—her children. Mom's tremendous dedication and service to my sister and me was evident when she wrote someone ago in an autobiographical sketch of this time that, "only the stubborn determination that my children would not go through without a mother drove me stumbling, searching for an answer."

Mom was finally cured of her physical ailment, ironically, by a homeown doctor. But the point to this is her dedication to Dad, Nancy, and me and her unwillingness to give up was more of an inspiration than anything that I have ever heard or experienced. Because of my mother, I know that I have the ability to be challenged and to question the road that you've taken.

Just as Mom, since her recovery, has rarely held herself back, I do not want you to do the same. The pies to go for it all and to enjoy whatever you are doing has been a theme in many of my presentations and conversations this year. It is my belief in this that has caused me to reiterate it one more time today.

Members, it is a fact, we will only fly as high as our highest dream. If you have an aspiration, don't hold yourself back by setting limits.

Reach out and set goals for yourself. It is not enough to know that you have strength of mind, there is no way that you can lose. For even if you don't achieve your goals, you will have learned and gained in the process. Henry Ford once said, "Failure is nothing more than the opportunity to begin again, more intelligently."

Success is certain, and you won't achieve every goal that you've set. You will be a winner, though, if you can face a failure and learn as a result. The tremendous advantage of our organization is the chance—the chance to pursue an avenue of participation in which your talents, interests, and aspirations can lead you to strive for success, remember that you are an individual with a unique combination of qualities that has been shared by no one else. Whatever road you take, realize that it has to be what you only are willing and able to do.

Looking back on my years in this organization, I am reminded of many experiences which I have had. Just as you will as you continue down your chosen road.

The time that I over-hauled a lawnmower engine in small engines' class only to have it blow up within minutes of operation. Because of a mistake this happened, but I learned in the process. Another experience that I look back on with pride is when my home chapter shared with you the story of Greenhanded—the same chapter of which I am yet an active member. The memories of that time, and they have made me the difference.

As I look back on my road, the one thing that stands so prominently before me today is the way that I have learned to take a kid who whenever he was confronted by strangers was intimidated and unsure and turned him out to a per-

son who has developed the confidence and enthusiasm of meeting new people. To speak to you on this stage, seven years ago, I would have thought impossible. My abilities wouldn't allow me—so I thought.

Today, I stand realizing how this program's success lies not only in its instruction of agriculture and leadership, but also in the confidence and self reliance it instills.

It scares me to think of where I would be had I quit the program or this organization. If I had taken the easy road, the one which many others were taking. This past year has undoubtedly been the greatest one of my life. I will forever thank you for that. Just as I cared about you, your letters, conversations, and willingness to help wherever I went showed that you cared about me. Because of your caring—your sharing, you have made all the difference.

As we continue on our roads after today, I'll never hold ourselves back but be the unique persons that God has made us. And, finally, as we climb future mountains, never hesitate to help others along the way.

*For two roads diverged in a wood,
and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.*

Thank you and God bless.
Rick Maier, Road #1, Box 109, Wilson, Kansas 67490, (313) 658-3665



Cobey Shorter, III
1985-86 National FFA Secretary

"... In Search of a Meaning"

"I want to help somebody to see the light today. I want to lend a helping hand to show someone the way. I want my life to be an example as I go. Because I will never pass this way again."

"I want to be a worthy vessel of your redeeming love. I want to give the glory and the praise to God above. Let me be a blessing while I have a chance. Because I will never pass this way again..."

Carol Ann Simmons

The search for the appropriate words to share with you was extremely difficult. I felt me in many different directions, but I always came back to the question—what is this all about? I kept asking myself—"Why do we prepare these elaborate good-byes?" Is it to share our opinions for the last time? Or is it to share with you the best of us and as this convention comes to a close? Or, maybe it is to express sincere gratitude to the countless number of people that we have come in contact with.

I am quite sure that it is a mixture of these observations and many more. But, I think the meaning is still missing. It wasn't until I listened to some of my favorite recordings that I gained a new insight into this unique search. The words I shared with you at the beginning of my address by Carol Ann Simmons gave a new direction to my thoughts. Her lyrics not only give life to her composition, but helped me realize the importance in having a purpose in life.

"What has been my purpose in life this past year?" "Why have I visited over-

forty states?" "Why have I given at least three speeches a day?" "Why have my travels caused me to be away from home and my closest friends?" "Why have I lived out of a suitcase for a whole year?" "Has it been for me?" "Power?—Prestige?—Fun?—or to be in a tug-of-war?" "What is my purpose in life?"

If it was done simply for fame, power, prestige, or fun, it was done for the wrong reason. Yes, these were some of the benefits of being a national officer, but the purpose is much harder to convey. It is much harder to convey because of the countless hours of preparing speeches, getting an average of five hours of sleep a night—and having what seemed to be a case of eternal jet lag—and sometimes being in a new place, not feeling like a complete stranger that is isolated from everyone and everything that he understands so well. Sometimes the question of "Why am I doing this?" would run through my mind.

Now it seems that I have reached a pinnacle in my life, becoming a national officer, and after reaching the peak, while sitting in this very auditorium, I find that it is no longer enough. I still have many wondering what my purpose to me twenty years from now. For the first time, I realized what many national officers had gone through before. The difficulty of retiring is not merely in saying goodbye to the FFA but in wondering if you really accomplished what you set out to do when you were elected.

What I realize is that my purpose in being in vocational agriculture and the FFA was not the pursuit of a national opportunity, it was to be a part of agriculture's new generation. My involvement to increase my knowledge of agriculture gave me the opportunity to serve in this capacity. Harold Kuster illustrates this point in his book entitled, "When All You've Ever Wanted Isn't Enough." He says you do not become happy by pursuing happiness, you become happy by doing something that you enjoy.

He further states that happiness is like a butterfly—the more you chase it, the more it flies away. But stop chasing it, put it away your net, and busy yourself with more productive things, and it will sneak upon you from behind and perch on your shoulder. For six years I have enjoyed being a part of vocational agriculture and the FFA. My agricultural education taught me to be helpful, reliable, and to put others before self and in the midst of my education, the happiness of being a leader evolved into my life.

It there is one point that I have tried to make in my travels as a national officer, it is this—self-improvement creates new opportunities. In other words, if you continue to improve yourself, you will automatically find new dreams to call your own. There is a unique avenue for the individual to participate in. The best way to advance is to find that avenue, explore it to its potential, and don't be overly fearful. You're something new. Some people predict that 75% of the first graders in our school systems today will be employed in jobs that don't even exist. With this in mind, I don't be afraid to take the non-traditional approach—remember you are a part of agriculture's new generation—you're expected to be different. There is nothing wrong with you when you get the feeling that all you ever wanted is not enough.

Serving as an officer this year has allowed me the opportunity to see American agriculture from a different perspective. Since we were formerly a part of the world we viewed agriculture as the backbone of our nation. We have now become urbanized and agriculture is viewed out of sync with the time zone. It seems that agriculture has lost its meaning. We reflect on the time when every young person that grew up in the country wanted to go to work on the farm or at least be a part of agriculture. And now, because of bleak times in agriculture, I find these same individuals wanting no part of that way of life.

Why? It's simple. Instead of pursuing the happiness of being involved in agriculture, we have begun to see the mere pursuit of happiness. The pursuit of happiness has caused us to forget our knowledge and understanding of agriculture. In making all these observations, it may seem that I have avoided answering the questions that I previously asked—my purpose, the meaning of my life, and the number of speeches given, and why I have done all this. When I entered agriculture and the FFA, I had little knowledge and understanding of agriculture. As I grew so did my will to be a part of it. I found myself not only

defending the industry but the men and women that have made it what it is today. And, in many cases, this defense led me to those that strongly contributed to the forgotten meaning. What they didn't want to hear what was said, but I found it essential to begin speaking up for the industry that has made this country great. In the process of speaking out for agriculture, I was fortunate to be able to serve as your National Secretary. What a fantastic opportunity I had! Here was the ideal situation to take my message to the people. After this year, I hope that my particular message has become a part of your concerns and that you will continue speaking out for agriculture even as my term ends.

During my travels this year I have come in contact with the leaders of our country that have renewed my beliefs in the American dream. I have come into contact with successful business and industry leaders that have given me new hope for rejuvenating our sagging economy, and I have come in contact with some of the most dynamic and motivating people I have ever known—YOU, the members and advisors of the FFA. YOU are the ones that have kept me in touch with reality. YOU are the ones that have made this year come alive. In my search for a meaning, I was always led back to YOU. The meaning I found was that I could not really do it alone. Without you, there was no reason to go on, no reason to speak, no reason to live out of a suitcase. I realize that the true meaning of life involves how you make others a part of yourself. Every speech, every mile, and every person that I have met is a part of me. As I depart this stage and this place, I hope that each of you will meet me, in a little part, and yes my purpose, that is a little part of me will go with each of you.

The search is a meaning begins and ends with YOU!!

Cobey Shorter III, 1204 Seaham Street, Eagle Lake, Texas 77434, (409) 234-2778

Springing from the hope we know, We will pray the joy you'll live in is a little more than you now show

(Chorus)
No, a lifetime that too long for us friends

As Bethlehem said, "Never shall I forget the days which I spent with you. Continue to be my friend as you will always be my friend."

Robert Weaver, Route 1, Box 221A, Hartselle, Alabama 35640, (205) 784-5959



"... Life is a Celebration!"

Cindy Blair
Western Region Vice President

Life is a Celebration!

by Kids From Fame

"I was lost on a winding road,
I thought that life had nothing left to give.

But then you came and showed me
that just to live was the greatest gift of all . . . and you showed me
that life is a celebration!"

As I listen to these words, I can't help but think how someone could have written that song about my own life. During my junior year in high school, I participated in an extemporaneous speech contest and chose the topic "FFA Leadership Activities, A Positive Experience." I remember how I told the judges about one of my closest friends in the FFA. She was a shy girl, very backward, and afraid of failure. She seemed to be searching for a sense of security, an identity, a place to belong. Before listening to my speech, I expected that by getting involved in FFA, this young lady had begun to set goals and develop self-worth. She learned to accept challenges and believe in her ability to achieve.

The friend I was talking about in that speech was actually me. Up until my freshman year in high school, my life had lacked direction, and I definitely felt like I was lost on a winding road. I wasn't sure what life had to give, but I felt that I personally had not to or nothing to offer.

Fortunately, my enrollment in vocational agriculture and FFA helped me change those negative feelings of self-doubt into a feeling of self-determination and an enthusiasm for life by participating in FFA contests and activities. I began to realize that even Cindy Blair had talents and that her life had a purpose. I learned to value opportunities, and with the encouragement of my advisors, parents, and friends, I began to draw a new road map for my life.

And yet, despite all I had learned, I still did not understand how to celebrate life itself.

I had grown up celebrating holidays such as Easter, Christmas and the 4th of July. I had celebrated on special occasions like marriages, anniversaries or the birth of a child. I especially celebrated achievements like winning a contest or reaching a major goal. . . . As I began my year in office, I realized that nothing in this world could surpass the incredible sense of celebration that I felt, when I was called to this stage November 6, 1986 as your Western Region Vice President. It was at that moment that I reached my highest goal in the FFA and in life. I realized that by being a National Officer since my sophomore year in high school, and it was right there in this auditorium that I told my advisor about my dream of someday wearing an FFA jacket with no lettering on the back. When that dream came true, I felt certain that being elected to be the 430,000 FFA members had to be the greatest celebration of my lifetime!

It wasn't until recently, however, that I discovered the real truth about life's greatest celebrations. You see, throughout my year of service, you members have taught me that life itself is truly the greatest celebration.

This is certainly not a profound thought.

In fact, it's pretty simple. It isn't even a new concept because we've probably all had it at least a dozen times. But when I began to celebrate the everyday events of my life, my years in the FFA gained new meaning, and I began to truly appreciate the world around me. Indeed, the celebrations of this past year that will always remain vivid in my memory are the simple moments you have all shared with me.

I certainly felt like celebrating in West Virginia, as I played putt-putt golf with Doug, who only hours earlier had taught me the alphabet in sign language. I celebrated, while eating beef-on-weak and buffalo wings with Mr. Nescomb who rescued me from the baggage claim area in the New York airport. I celebrated with laughter, as I attempted to lead a group of young men in a Jesus Ford's aerobic workout at the Mississippi NCLSD, and as I skied down Mount Spokane with Woody and Jim. I celebrated life in astonishment as I rode with Cody through a Wyoming snowstorm the first week of May, and as I enjoyed the beauty of a Montana camp at a youth leadership training camp. I celebrated with appreciation during an unforgettable welcome to South Carolina, and a scenic trip to the Charleston area following my delightful stay at Clemson University. New Mexico taught me to celebrate by playing volleyball and playing hot dogs, whereas Nebraska taught me to celebrate at the flicker of a candle during a vespers program. I truly felt the warmth of celebration in Iowa, as I spent Easter weekend with the Ellis family and they shared their philosophy of being a "real" person.

I would take a book to list all of the special moments from the past year, and regardless of where I was or what I was doing, it was each of you who made the difference.

As times throughout my life, including this year in office, I have been faced with challenges, frustrations, and doubts, and I certainly did not feel like celebrating. During those times I found myself referring to God's promise in Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths."

Perhaps, FFA members, you understand this verse far better than I, because "I was each of you who helped remind me that even when times are tough, life is worth celebrating! But Neal was not afraid to celebrate life even though his family had recently lost their farm. Doug celebrated with laughter and smiles, although being deaf made it hard for him to verbally express his excitement and determination. Dan and Troy celebrated continuously, determined never to allow their whistlers to prevent them from fulfilling their duties as state officers. My fellow national officers have celebrated this year, as births, marriages, and deaths touched each of their families, and reminded all of us that life is precious value.

Some of you may be thinking that your life is different from mine, that things are a little tougher for you; that you couldn't possibly achieve your highest goals and that you just don't have much to celebrate. It is true, it is the case, but perhaps this poem written by Jerry Pank, a Wyoming FFA Advisor and dear friend, might encourage you to look for the ways of celebrating in your own life.

Can You
Can you meet the challenges
you'll encounter on the way?
Can you face the changes that
come with each new day?
Can you take some chances with
faith in that great future?
Can you make the choices that will
keep you on your course?

Can you conquer all your fears and
help others do the same?
Can you conduct yourself with
honor and dignity your name?
Can you make commitments and
stand steadfast and strong?
Can you make concessions when
it is that you and your group?
Can you keep your confidence
even when you fail?

Can you live contentment
when you have more than you need?
Can you show compassion for
those who need a friend?
Can you confirm your faith in God
until the very end?

Can you celebrate life?
As I conclude my year in office, there are many jobs I want to thank. To my family and friends, I have gained an ever greater appreciation for each of you in the past 12 months. Whenever I look back on the road by which I always knew that I was really never alone. I felt your love stretch across the ocean to Japan and Thailand from Washington State down to Florida and every place in between.

To my fellow officers, I have never had a brother until this year, and suddenly I had five! Someday, I thought that just surviving your harassment would be cause for celebrating; but you've taught me a great deal, and I have never regretted being the only out on the team. I can honestly say that I love and respect each of you, and you'll always hold a special place in my heart.

Mr. Horton, as my FFA advisor, you stood by me through thick and thin. You believed in me at times when I didn't even believe in myself. I hope that someday I can repay your efforts by encouraging a shy, backward freshman to believe in himself the way you helped me believe in myself.
I am certainly thankful that the Lord has given me the opportunity to be a part of such a dynamic organization, and I stand before you, my fellow members, with humble gratitude and appreciation for allowing me to serve you this year. As I searched my heart for the final words to share with you, I found this quote in my diary dated 1964: "The day will come when we must have enough confidence in ourselves that we can forget about the material things that we think make us happy, and just be happy for who we are and what we are. . . . We have to learn that life itself is truly the greatest celebration!"

"The secret of life is in the living not just standing there and watching life go by. And the secret of love is in the giving, you've got to open up your heart and deep inside. You know it's worth a try. . . . Celebrate life in every way you can, you just keep right on and live it every single day. Celebrate life every moment of every day. There's nothing to be sure of . . . you'll end up having more love when, you've given love away."

Cindy Blair, Route 1, Box 306, Noble, Oklahoma 73068, (405) 872-5303.

Luxembourg Specials

René Lahier and his wife were brought over from Luxembourg where he has driven the tour bus for two WEA and six Agricultural Proficiency Travel Seminars. Lahier has done more than just drive a bus, he has played tour guide, interpreter and tatterly useful to many FFA members. Past participants of the Lahier tours sponsored by he and his wife to the National FFA Convention so they could see what the FFA is really all about while at home. Lahier also received the Honorary American Farmer Degree.

100% Plus States

This year seven states were recognized during the national convention for having 100% or more of their vocational agriculture enrollment in FFA. The states honored were: Connecticut, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio and Wisconsin.

National FFA Week

Sponsored by Kaiser/Esteh
Divisions of Vigor Industries, Inc.

FFA Week will be the week of February 21-26, 1987. Many new items will be available. Members are urged to show their communities that vocational agriculture and FFA do indeed prepare "Leaders for the New Fields of Agriculture."

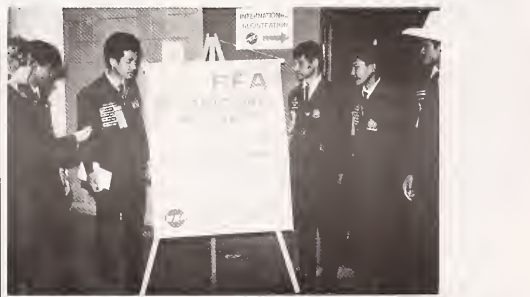


"Think About It" Audio-Visual

Sponsored by The Wrangler Brand

This year's theme show was designed to communicate the diversity of agricultural career leads open to students through vocational agriculture. The eight-minute film is ideal for potential students of vocation and complements the recruitment film, "Be All You Can Dream." It is available for purchase from the National FFA Supply Service.

International FFA Program



The International FFA program had not only a very active year, but also a very active convention. Colin Baker, a member of the Young Farmers Clubs of England addressed the convention on behalf of the WEA Inbound participants, while Chuck Gales, WEA 1986, from Ohio, spoke on behalf of the WEA Outbound participants and presented a "Past participants Scholarship" to the National FFA. The scholarship is to help WEA members pay for their outbound program in 1987.

Work Experience Abroad (WEA) allows for hundreds of members to travel and learn different agricultural practices by living in other countries with host families in a variety of different ways as many members learned after stopping by the International/WEA room in H. Roe Bartle.

WEA Outbound Students

Alabama: Jeff Boutwell, Robert W. Weaver, Alabama; Justin Avari, Arizona; Daniel Burdette, Bill Meadberry, Bruce Sprietman, Arizona; Thomas Warren, California; Rick Adams, Kate Edie, Len Nodds, Lynn Russell, Bonnie Thornton, Colorado; Chris Frasier, Gary Lovejoy, Michelle Prochaska, Shawn Rodwell, Brett Ruffalo, Connecticut; Brian Ramsey, Hawaii; Chon Kawachi, Idaho; Tracey Jeffers, Illinois; Rick Erickson, Anne Ferstestadt, Brad Hermandon, Jennifer Kink, Julie Kuban, Robert Taylor, James Staves, Demora Stoehr, Mandy Webb, Michelle West, Indiana; Jack Heller, Iowa; John Armstrong, Danielle Bonnet, Kalya Brix, Daniel Burdette, Bill Meadberry, Thomas Scherbaum, Kentucky; Larry Davis, Michigan; Steven C. Boyer, Karen Cant, Shane Crow, Michael Oum, Dane Glink, Claire Koski, Christopher Lukert, Karen R. Redding, Mike Shum, Robert Taylor, Dennis J. Weyburne, Minnesota;

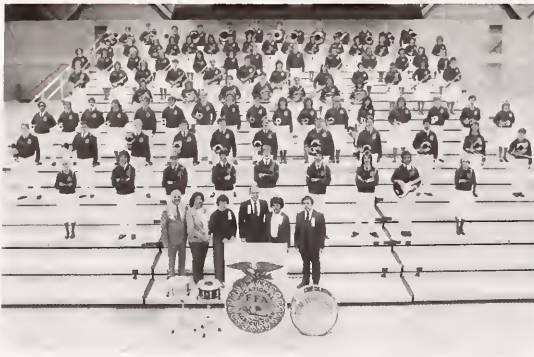
McDaniel, Tammy Lynn Praesel, Lindley Todd Quinn, Mark D. Schweasch, Carl E. Teer, Jan Virginia Weaver, Washington; Janet Howell, Wisconsin; Audra Ahrens, Michelle Anderson, Karen Bloch, Mary Borchers, Lisa Borzynski, Douglas Durr, Jeff Fritz, James Thomas Drake, Ted Harvey, Brian Kasper, Lynn Marie Kramer, John Loeffelholz, Nancy Meyer, Scott Miller, Kent Norwood, Tom Ruchel, Jay Stapp, Debra Theobald, John Walcheli, Eric Wedemeyer, Kurt Wieding, Eric Weigel, Dawn Zemke, Wyoming; John Anderson, Brian Parker, Andrew Simon Mattsson, Gregory Morton, Anne Marie: Sonja Braun

WEA Inbound Students

Austria, Austria, Belgium, Canada, France's Republic of China, Finland, People's West Germany, Greece, Honduras, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Thailand

National FFA Band

Sponsored by **Manna Pro Corporation and Landmark Genetics, Inc.**



FFA musicians directed by Roger Heath, Boulder, Colorado, presented a great variety of musical selections after having been together less than a week. Members were selected from audition tapes and brought together for the first time on Sunday before the convention to practice the music performed throughout the convention. Heath was aided by Assistant Director Gene Engler, Chaperones and Assistants to the Director, Mrs. Gene Engler and Mary Heath.

Alabama: Brent Bridges, Scottsboro, Bassoon. **Arkansas:** Marcus Dorman, Farmington, Tuba; Teri Ward, Salem, Trumpet. **California:** Karenna Legg, Ramona, Trumpet. **Connecticut:** Laurel Wood, Wallingford, Clarinet. **Hawaii:** Sam K. Eichelberger, Kakaia, Trumpet. **Idaho:** Andrea Carlson, Kendrick, Flute. **Illinois:** Randy Baysinger, Stockton, BARI. **Indiana:** Trish Muldrew, Bushnell, Alto Saxophone. **David Moellring, Fox-**

ler, Trombone. **Delaware:** Schmidt, Altissimo. **Florida:** Jones, Kenneth Eck, Dwell, BAR BC. **Conne Furnish, Vevay, Dannel, Robert McKinney, Montpelier, Percussion.** **Carl Wayne Russell, Hobbessville, Trombone.** **Delaware:** Rensselaer, Tuba. **Iowa:** Julia Addison, Dexter, Oboe. **Rhane Anderson, Brighton, Clarinet.** **Steve Bay, Alba, Trombone.** **Letha Davis, Hazleton, Bass Clarinet.** **Richard Goodhue, Carlele, Clarinet.** **Karen Osterkamp, Guttenberg, Bass Saxophone.** **Kansas:** Angela Baldwin, Elkhart, Trombone. **Brian Davidson, Delphos, Trombone.** **Dennis Fry, Fort Scott, Clarinet.** **Matt Mills, Hugoton, Trumpet.** **Robert Tetsinger, Farlington, Percussion.** **Kentucky:** Terri L. Hale, Franklin, Horn. **Bobby Phelps, Fredonia, Trumpet.** **Eric J. Taron, Brooksville, Tuba.** **Louisiana:** Kai Griffin, Cut Off, Bass Guitar. **Maryland:** Jennifer Biddinger, Union Bridge, Trumpet. **Sheila Leatherman, Frederick, Flute.** **Michigan:** Dolores Austin, Thompsonville, Clarinet. **Sheryl Irene Cochran, Fenwick, Trumpet.** **Beth Ann Henry, Cassville, Flute.** **Mark Wagner, Britton, Trombone.** **Minnesota:** Kristin Borstad, St. James, Percussion. **Cary Ouring, Butterfield, Trumpet.** **Becky Hupfänger, Danvers, Flute.** **Brent Stanghele, Lake Lillian, Tuba.** **Mississippi:** Vince Galin, Soso, Trombone. **Missouri:** Holly Bauer, Hunsville, Bass Clarinet. **Linda Froeschle, Sedalia, Alto Saxophone.** **Garrick Hein, Boonville, Trumpet.** **Brian Midland, Mayville, Trombone.** **G. Lee Morland, Union, Trumpet.** **Tracy Neumeyer, Jackson, Horn.** **Montana:** Ula Rae Hilt, Power, Clarinet. **Sara Hougen, Melstone, Horn.** **Greg Vandenberg, Conrad, Trumpet.** **James Watts, Fairview, Trombone.** **Nebraska:** David Huinsky, Burrwell, Percussion. **Jeff McNeil, Red Cloud, Trumpet.** **Brian Mladý, Verdugo, Clarinet.** **Sonya Schreiner, Norfolk, Bass**

National FFA Chorus

Sponsored by the National FFA General Fund

FFA members from all over, auditioned by tape to become members of the National FFA Chorus directed by Stan Kingma, Vineland, New Jersey. Others involved with the National FFA Chorus were: Owen Robbins, Accompanist and Assistant Director, Butch Taylor, Assistant Director, Marilyn Kingma, Chaperone and Assistant to the Director and Mrs. Butch Taylor, Chaperone and Assistant to the Director. Chorus members arrived early for the intense practice necessary to provide the quality entertainment experienced by those in attendance at this national convention.

Alabama: Michael Bankston, Opelika; **Arizona:** Melody Langford, Wellton; **Arkansas:** Karen Christensen, Hatfield; **Renea Roberts, Wickes;** **Georgia:** Kesha Brimlow, Donaldsonville; **Idaho:** Mike Sutton, Midvale; **Michelle Turman, Inou, Illinois:** Teresa Benson, Gurne; **Jeff Dlass, Cossina Park, Carrie Griffen, Payson;** **Gary Harmon, Stockton;** **Brian Klinge, Fort Byron;** **Chris Thompson, Pittsfield;** **Indiana:** Gary Allen, Kokomo, Matthew Curtis, Union City; **Melinda Schutts, Argos;** **Brent Vance, Wayne-**

town; **Iowa:** Justin Benna, Sioux Center; **Brian Lehman, Eagle Grove;** **Leah Dison, Story City;** **Kurt Omsundson, Nashua;** **Jenny Rigan, West Liberty;** **Barth Walter, Gutterberg;** **Jason Wells, Milton;** **Rick Winegardner, Pocahontas;** **Kansas:** Julie Ruttan, Leavenworth; **Kentucky:** Kelly Parker, Hickman; **Michigan:** Felipe Lierena, Dover; **Minnesota:** Brian Budahn, Hewitt; **Michael Henning, Brewster;** **Darwin Johnson, Vergas;** **Jim Koehl, Hancock;** **Tina Larson, DuPont;** **Danny Rage, Ada;** **Timothy Vogt, Avon;** **Kimberly Wetzel, Waterville;** **Missouri:** Linda Froeschle, Sedalia; **Kevin Gede,**

Thayer, Garrick Hein, Boonville; **David Jeffers, Green Ridge;** **Daniel Keene, Salem;** **Scott Lane, Liberal;** **Walter Miller, Arleta;** **Thad Reynolds, Harrisonville;** **Amy Seger, Warrenton;** **Randy Sprout, Warrenburg;** **Shawn Swinger, Weatherly;** **Kimberly Terry, Gladstone;** **Montana:** Jodi Buer, Scobey; **Colleen Robertson, Judith Gap;** **Randy Rosman, Stanford;** **Nebraska:** Ryan Piazek, Wilber; **Dustin Premier, Blue Hill;** **Brian Sandall, Bassett;** **New Mexico:** Trace Jeffs, Roswell; **Jeff Wallace, Melrose;** **New York:** Sara Jane Bellinger, Howes Cave; **John Hajdasz, Evans Mills;** **Lance Rones, Philadelphia;** **North Dakota:** Kari Olson, Valley City; **Ohio:** Alan Alchholz, Africa; **Dan Cox, Eaton;** **Lynn Hughes, Gambier;** **Mark O'Neil, Delta;** **David Rodgers, London;** **Wendy Wilkerson, Arlington;** **Joy Young, Warsaw;** **Oklahoma:** Tawana Scott, Pawnee; **Tava Seifert, Enid;** **Terri Watts, Blackwell;** **Oregon:** Troy Hymer, Tillam; **South Carolina:** Lavonia Press, Holly Hill; **Gerry Ulmer, Coon;** **South Dakota:** Timothy Horley, Carpenter; **Mark Miller, Hurley;** **Charlie Wheeler, Aurora;** **Texas:** Julie Hooks,



Huntsville, Utah: Candace Crane, Salina, Washington; **Julia Davis, Orondo;** **Keri Gake, Yelm;** **Angela Phinney, McMullen;** **Karen Pritchett, Albion;** **Tim Swannack, Lamont;** **Lisa Thom, Snohomish;** **West**

Virginia: Pamela Ash, Alma; **Wisconsin:** Daniel Grady, Cottage Grove; **Tammy Lupis, Bordelon;** **Ann Newhouse, Lake Mills;** **Dan Deen, Viroqua;** **Richard D. Thom, Sturgeon Bay;** **Rose Schwend-**

mann, Hartford; **Kenneth Tennessee, Hartford**

National FFA Talent

Sponsored by the National FFA Foundation General Fund



Talent groups and individuals auditioned for directors, Don and Martha Erickson, Mankato, North Dakota, just prior to the convention. Members showed a wide range of talent and skills throughout the convention.

Arizona: Deer Valley FFA Chapter, Rochelle Satterfield; **Arkansas:** Delight FFA Chapter, Gerry Allgood; **California:** Mt. Whitney FFA Chapter, Michelle Fort, Oakhurst Yosemite FFA Chapter, Pam Wheeler; **Colorado:** Dolores FFA Chapter, Michelle Kuhlman; **Holystoke FFA Chapter, Permy Dubois;** **Conne Lasey, Georgia:** Monroe Area FFA Chapter, Brandi Brewer; **Tanis Nottingham;** **Murray FFA Chapter, Don Talum;** **Randy Talant, Hawaii:** Konaquana FFA Chapter, Raynette Hakama; **Illinois:** Chicago Ag Science FFA Chapter, Eric Beglund; **Tiffany Charrel Ekins, Kenneth Hill;** **North Green FFA Chapter, Kendra Lorton;** **Olympic FFA Chapter, Becky Hunt;** **Gidy Springer, Iowa:** Central City FFA Chapter, Lucinda

Hines, Davis-Rodgers FFA Chapter, Kelly Miller; **Michigan:** Benze Central FFA Chapter, Tim Lynn Casey; **Colan FFA Chapter, Missy Lee Wagner;** **Ockeville FFA Chapter, Ronald Zdrojewski;** **Quincy FFA Chapter, David Marshall;** **Tom Marshall, Minnesota:** Foley FFA Chapter, Judy Ruessert; **Jeff Mastey, Greg Mastey, Mike Mastey, Tim Winkelman;** **Heron Lake-Oakburn FFA Chapter, Christine Henning;** **New Richmond FFA Chapter, Paul Krutin;** **Dennis Neason;** **Mont Bryer, Missouri:** Hermaville FFA Chapter, Pam Allen; **Christina Lynn Gibbs, North Harrison FFA Chapter, Kelli Bennett;** **Melissa Ladd, Amy Thomas;** **Pleasant Hope FFA Chapter, Kathy Humant;** **Couch FFA Chapter, Renee Eliechmi;** **Montana:** Judith Goy FFA Chapter, Colleen Robertson; **Nebraska:** Hampton FFA Chapter, Alan Beck; **Ord FFA Chapter, Andy Bredthauer;** **Jay Knapp, Scott Vancura;** **Jeannie Staab, Lynette Staab;** **North Carolina:** State FFA

Officers: Mickey McCall, C.J. Ekins, Hugh Solomon, William B. Litchurch, Ricky Warren, Earl Beard, New Mexico; **Corona FFA Chapter, Marvin Pounds;** **New York:** Sharon Springs FFA Chapter, Kerry Anne Kennedy; **North Dakota:** Rollinsdale FFA Chapter, Natasha Allen; **Quebec-Lac-Burgin FFA Chapter, Kevin Stevens;** **Ohio:** Federal Hoarding FFA Chapter, Deana Benson; **Laurie Shering:** **Licking County JVS FFA Chapter, Mark Priest;** **Oklahoma:** Bulevar FFA Chapter, Scott Elliott; **Traci Stover, Chisholm FFA Chapter, Shannon Fore, Cushing FFA Chapter, Norman Ladd;** **Owensport FFA Chapter, Oledrick Miller;** **Teumessan FFA Chapter, Melissa Hembree;** **Tennessee:** County FFA Chapter, Kimberly Jan Carey; **Texas:** Van Alstyne FFA Chapter, Stacy Burk; **Vietnam FFA Chapter, Carlos Garbay Jr.;** **Washington:** Elberton FFA Chapter, Janet L. Beckel; **Kaye S. Beckel;** **Toledo FFA Chapter, Rob Embody**

Stars Over America

Sponsored on the national level by Executive Sponsors of the National FFA Foundation

Sponsored on the local and state level by Federal Crop Insurance Corporation

Stars Over America audio-visual Sponsored by The National FFA General Fund



These are the highest honors any FFA member in production agriculture and agribusiness can obtain. These eight regional winners, four from each area, were chosen from the 735 American Farmer Degree winners for possessing outstanding abilities in leadership, exceptional knowledge and progressive methods in today's agriculture.

Each Star received \$2,000 while each regional received \$1,000 upon the winners announcement after the Stars Over America Pageant which included a multi-image audio-visual presentation on each regional star's program.



Star Farmer of America—
Christopher Hugh Thompson, Midland City, Alabama

Star Agribusinessman of America—
Todd Wilkinson, White House, Tennessee

Star Farmers



Jeffrey A. Siga, 22, son of Joe and Shirley Siga of Mineral Point, Wisconsin, is the FFA's Central Region Star Farmer. Jeffrey, dairy farm owner and operator, bought his first two calves in 1979 and began farming full-time in 1983 by renting 121 acres and milking 16 Holstein cows. He now has 31 milking cows, and about 30 heifers, yearlings and cows ready to calve. The Blanchardville-Pecatonica FFA member also raises 100 acres of alfalfa, corn and oats. Jeff has returned 90 percent of his income into improvements for the farm. Improvements include: remodeled milking barn, which included installing 31 new milking stanchions; a five-year crop rotation schedule, a 54' by 99' machine shed, and a concrete silo for haylage and corn silage.



David Brian Petsch, 21, son of Muriel Petsch of Mendon, Wyoming, is the FFA's Western Region Star Farmer. David is a rancher who owns one-quarter of and shares management responsibilities for Petsch Ranches, Inc., Petsch Land Company, and Petsch Farms LTD. His share includes about 9,000 acres of land and about 500 head of cattle. The Petsch family runs a cow-calf operation with nearly 1,200 mother cows. Since his father died last year, the management of the operation has been shared between David, his brother and uncle. David balances feed rations, provides health care for stock, keeps extensive records and may oversee up to 30 workers during spring branding. The Albion FFA member is now a ranch management student at Sheridan College.



Christopher Hugh Thompson, 21, son of Don and Virginia Thompson of Midland City, Alabama, is the FFA Southern Region Star Farmer. In high school, after his father's heart attack, Chris decided to take over the third generation farm. Chris usually works 500 to 600 acres in vegetables, and 200 to 300 acres in row crops. The Dale County FFA member plans to expand to 1,000 acres of vegetables and sell his produce even farther north than Georgia. When Chris took over the operation, he added 480 acres of vegetables to the 700 acres of soybeans double-cropped behind wheat. He bought nearly 300 acres and all the farm's equipment from his father, including four tractors and the field machinery that will help him operate Thompson Farms for more generations.



Todd Owen Miller, 21, son of Ernest and Joyce Miller of Hamburg, Pennsylvania, is the Eastern Region Star Farmer of the FFA. As one-third partner in his family's dairy, Todd increased their cattle's feed efficiency by developing better rations and thus increased milk and fat production while decreasing feed costs. Todd is in charge of the 703 acres of alfalfa and corn the Millers raise to feed the cattle. During the winter, he oversees maintenance and repair of all equipment and machinery, and helps his partners with the milking. Todd started his own dairy herd with 20 cows and has increased it to 109 while also renting 50 acres within the partnership for corn and alfalfa.

Star Agribusinessmen



Richard Y. Kyutoku, 19, son of John and Jerrie Kyutoku of Salinas, California, is the FFA Western Region Star Agribusinessman. Richard now owns 10 percent of the family's cut flower business. He receives 2.5 percent of the ownership each year in exchange for labor and management of the nursery and eventually will own 25 percent of the business. His jobs on the 10-acre operation include flower bed preparation, night and temperature control, bricking, harvesting, and grading flowers. His specialties are improving the efficiency of the nursery and marketing roses to be sold across the country. This fall the Gonzales FFA member will be a sophomore at Cal Poly State University majoring in agricultural business management.



Todd Wilkinson, 20, son of Jesse and Nancy of White House, Tennessee, is the FFA's Southern Region Star Agribusinessman. At the Wilkerson Plant Center, Todd sells vegetable and bedding plants, landscape and garden supplies, and a variety of nursery stock. As a freshman in high school, he sold the vegetables he grew in his in-ag class through a roadside market. After he sold his hall of the greenhouse he and another student built, Todd borrowed money and built two large greenhouses for his own business. Todd is a sophomore in agricultural education at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville. He is specializing in ornamental horticulture and landscape design and plans to teach vocational agriculture.



Mark William Elsass, 21, son of William and Bonnie Elsass of Anna, Ohio is the Eastern Region Star Agribusinessman for the FFA. Mark is a feed and grain salesman, livestock feed specialist and assistant branch manager of Provoco-Kettlersville, a division of Binkins Grain and Feed Company based in Ohio. He is now in the employee training program and may move into management in the 135-employee company in two years. He began as general salesman, grain tester and grader, chemical and fertilizer formulator, and feed mixer. He was promoted to controller of Provoco's chemical warehouse plant before moving to assistant manager. Mark has initiated some innovative changes, such as the computer-based nutritional program for area dairy farmers.



Joe Heinze, 21, son of David and Carol Heinze of Belgrade, Minnesota, is the FFA Central Region Star Agribusinessman. In high school Joe worked on his neighbor's 2,300-acre farm and eventually moved up to become foreman. He was responsible for repair and maintenance of all equipment and machinery. He also does custom machinery installation and repair work. Now Joe is the full-time herdsmen for a 110-cow dairy farm, with responsibility for feed rations, breeding and milk quality. He plans to operate his own dairy within 10 years. Farm management classes at the local vocational technical school, extra custom welding jobs and an option to buy into the dairy herd he manages, are a few of the ways he's working toward owning his farm.

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THE FFA.

Building Our American Communities

Sponsored by RJR Nabisco, Inc.



Building Our American Communities (BOAC) awards recognize chapters who have committed all their members to build their community a better place to live and work through special community improvement projects.

National Winner (Western Region)—Etna, Washington

The Etna FFA Chapter, the chapter's project, titled "Ag Boosters: Challenge Toward Regional Economic Enhancement" or "ABC-TREE," was a reforestation program for the depressed timber industry in their town. When unemployment in the community hit 26 percent, Etna FFA members organized a program that would create jobs and provide job training. Using other groups in the community, timber companies and the state Department of Natural Resources as resources for finances and information, the members led the job that reforested 2,000 acres with 940,000 trees. The initial project generated a half year's part and full-time employment for about 30 people.

2nd Place National Winner (Eastern Region)—Lexington, Ohio

The New Lexington FFA Chapter. A survey by the members determined their community was in need of some outdoor recreation facilities for camping, hiking, fishing, boating and target shooting. Working with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, the members obtained lands to purchase and renovate a 47-acre park area. They built shelters, camps, showers, picnic tables and shooting ranges. They cleaned the whole area, re-stocked the fish pond and then publicized the availability of the facility to the public. The New Perry County Gun Club now provides a safe, clean facility for family camping, civic meetings and other activities. The project created additional revenue for the community and about seven full-time jobs.

3rd Place National Winner (Central Region)—Mankato, Kansas

The Mankato FFA Chapter. This small town, suffering the effects of a depressed farm economy, entered an industry that would provide jobs and revenue. The chapter surveyed the community's needs and then surveyed the alfalfa production capacity of the area. Working with the National Hay Growers Association, the city council, a regional planning council and their land-grant university, the members provided the information and support that succeeded in bringing an alfalfa-cattle industry to Mankato. Their project, titled "Total Revival of an American Community" or "TRAC," generated \$78,000 revenue in the first five months and will eventually create about 35 jobs.

4th Place National Winner (Southern Region)—Bartlett, Tennessee

The Bartlett FFA Chapter. Their project, titled "FARM" or "Farmers Are Tennessee Homecoming" was a local effort in the state wide "Tennessee Homecoming" program of community involvement and improvements. The chapter restored their town's Triangle Park by planting more than 70 trees, 90 shrubs and hundreds of other plants. They built a gazebo, erected signs and installed fencing, lights and flagpoles. Through this project they worked with local government, civic clubs, local businesses and their Chamber of Commerce. The members' efforts saved the town about \$44,000 in labor and other costs that it would have taken to complete their volunteer project.

Gold

Alabama: Opelika, Arizona: Antelope; Georgia: Perry Hill; Illinois: Sycamore, Warsaw, McLean-Leland, Bluffs, DeKalb, NW Suburban Dist. 214-211; Franklin Center; Indiana: Columbia City; Iowa: Buffalo Center, Dows, Wilton, Algona, Stormont, Kansas: Jackson Heights, Maryland: Kentucky, Gallatin County, Spencer County, Louisiana: Cargento, Maryland: Brunswick; Missouri: Union, Western, Osceola; Montana: Park City, Nebraska: Ravenna, Leigh, New Mexico: Russell Goddard; North Carolina: Bartlett Valley; Ohio: New Lexington, Oregon: Indian Valley; Oklahoma: Purcell, Pennsylvania: Grassland, Elizabethtown, South Dakota: Elgin, Harrisburg, Clark, Tennessee: Bartlett, Utah: Granite Mountain; Virginia: Burdette, Broadway, Marine Junior; Washington: Elma, Montesano, West Virginia: Marion County, Wisconsin: Janesville Park, Hustadford Vo-Ag, Denmark, Bloomer

Silver

Alabama: George W. Long; Houston County; Alaska: North Pole; Arkansas: Lavaca, California: Kingburg, Colorado: Dethle, Florida: Winter Park, New Smyrna Beach, Junior High; Georgia: Newton County, Hawaii: James Dole; Idaho: Desai, Illinois: Herscher; Michigan: Grand Haven, Grand Haven; Iowa: Crestwood, Marengo; Andrew, Piarre, Webster, Kansas: Winfield; Maryland: Lexington; Louisiana: Midland; Maryland: Frederick County Vo-Tech; Ohio: Michigan: Breckenridge; Minnesota: Sherburn, La-

nesboro; Mississippi: East Marion; Pine Grove; Missouri: Koshkonong, Harshbarger, Lamar; Nebraska: Lakeview, Nevada: Diamond Mountain-Eureka, Ruby Mountain; New Jersey: Middlesex County; New Mexico: Raton; New York: Chemung-Two Future Conserv.; Madison; North Carolina: West Carter; North Dakota: Weldon; Ohio: Bowling Green, Buckeye Valley, West Muskingum, Trumbull Co. Joint Vo-Tech; Oklahoma: Kansas; Oregon: Forest Grove; Pennsylvania: Twin Valley, Penns Manor; South Carolina: Mullins; Pal M Dorman; Tennessee: Bradley; Texas: Brownsville; California: Loma; Utah: Roosevelt, Winchester; Vermont: Mossyrock; Wisconsin: Blanchardville-Peacalona; Monroe; Waupaca; Bloomington

Bronze

Alabama: Daleville; W. A. Berry; J. R. Pittard Area Vocational; Dale County; Alaska: Delta Junction; Arizona: Backeye; Arkansas: Valley Springs; Shattuck; California: Fresno United; Colorado: Kim; Connecticut: Northwestern Regional; Rockville Vo-Ag; Delaware: Millford; Smyrna; Middletown; Florida: Sarasota Vo-Ag, North Fort Myers, Hawaii: Waialua; Idaho: Meridian; Illinois: Dixon; Roseville; Winchester; Genoa-Kingsford; Indiana: Carroll (Fior); Princeton; Iowa: Linn-Mar; Estherville; Mount Airy; North Pole; Cumberland and Massena; Lincoln; Riceville; Kansas: Plainville; Arkansas City; Peabody; Louisiana: Ward III; Da Grone; Maine: Carbo, Limestone; Massachusetts: Cape Cod Tech; Essex: Pathfinder; Michigan: Marshall; Minnesota: Southland, Madeline; Perry; Pine Island; Appleton; Missouri: El Dorado Springs; Montana: Cascade, Nebraska: Verdigris; New Hampshire: Much-To-Do, Exeter Area; New Jersey: Camden Tech-East; North Carolina: South Lenoir; Clinton; North Dakota: Rugby; Oklahoma: Erick; Oregon: Lebanon; Rhode Island: Chatham; South Carolina: Britton's Neck; Texas: Cleburne; Utah: Sierra Blanca; Center, Hamlin; Sulphur Springs; Chico; Reddy; Avery; Grand; Mason; Happy; Deer City; Raymondville; Klein; Vermont: Bennington; Virginia: Nelson Senior; Liberty Junior; Northampton High; Washington: Krumpholtz; West Virginia: Greenbrier East; Wisconsin: Manawa; Marion; Dohshook West; Auburndale; Darlington; Turfale Lake; Grant; Bay Port; Madison East; Wyoming: Pie Hills; Gillette

Convention In Review

Sponsored by CIBA GEIGY Corporation

A special video presentation was prepared and presented during the convention via FFA's closed-circuit television system. The program drew the many of the convention proceedings together in a fast-paced review of stage activities, contests, Career Show, meetings and other FFA activities around Kansas City.

BOAC Achievement in No Unteerism Award Winners

Sponsored by RJR Nabisco, Inc.

These awards are to recognize 50 State winners for their individual achievements and leadership in community development through participation in chapter BOAC projects. The following individuals were acknowledged at the 4th National FFA Conference on Community Development September 27—October 1, 1986 in Washington, DC.

National Winner—Jim Fink, Union, Missouri

1st Runner Up—David Fuhr, Elton, South Dakota

2nd Runner Up—John McGeachy, New Lexington, Ohio

National Finalists

Alabama: Allen Knight, Opelika; Illinois: Troy Spangler, Franklin Grove, Iowa: Bruce Meinders, Buffalo Center; Kansas: Greg Doud, Mankato; Louisiana: Donald C. Clemmens II, Carencro; Maryland: Harry Nelson Burns Jr., Bruns; West, Mississippi: Timothy Bach, Columbia; Montana: Douglas Larry Frank, Park City; Pennsylvania: James Robert Singleton, Arlington; Washington: Dennis Prante, Elma; West Virginia: Vickie Coon, Farmington

State Finalists

Alaska: Chris Petty, North Pole; Arizona: Frank Aza, Antelope; Arkansas: Wayne Martin Jr., Lavaca; California: Rene Barefoot, Kingburg; Colorado: Richard, Rockville; Delaware: Yolanda

Grant, Milford; Florida: Laura Austin, Winter Park; Georgia: Jeff Rowland, Perry High; Hawaii: Wayne A. Yamada, James Dale; Idaho: Wiley Graham, Deary; Indiana: Mary Catherine Fries, Columbia City; Kentucky: Lora Beth Lowe, Galatin Co.; Maine: Shawn Sandstrom, Caribou; Massachusetts: Arthur Smith, Cape Cod; Michigan: Scott Partes, Breckenridge; Minnesota: Stacy A. Rosenberg, Sherburn; Nebraska: Jennifer Taylor, Ravenna; Nevada: Ramsey Buttham, Diamond Mountain; New Hampshire: Timothy Coby, Much-to-Do; New Jersey: Robert A. Dickerson, Middlesex-East Brunswick; New Mexico: James Jones, Goddard; New York: Gary Munson, Chemung-Two Future Conservants; North Carolina: Robert Crabb, Bartlett Valley; North Dakota: Don Sonerson, Weldon; Oklahoma: Greg Ogden, Faircell; Oregon: Mike Bateman, Forest Grove; Rhode Island: Chris A. Cahoon, Charlot; South Carolina: Keith Allen Moore, Union; Texas: Cory Turner, Brownsboro; Utah: Sandra Korman; Alaska: Granite Mountain; Vermont: Janice, Meridian; Washington: Carol Ferrell; Arkansas: Winchester; Rhode Island: Seibel, Bloomer; Wyoming: Bill Wolf, Campbell County

National FFA Chapter Safety Awards

Sponsored by Dow Chemical U.S.A. and Farm and Industrial Equipment Institute

Chapters presented with a gold, silver or bronze Chapter Safety Award showed superior efforts in promoting and insuring health/safety in their communities, homes and schools.

Gold

Alabama: West Limestone; Fort Payne, Scottsboro; J. R. Pittard; Arizona: Antelope; California: Morfit County, Connecticut: Housatonic Valley; Florida: Benneil; Sarasota Vo-Ag; Illinois: Sycamore; Bushnell; Prairie City, Clinton; Bluffs; Winchester; Rochelle; Indiana: Carroll Fort Wayne, Southwestern-Monroe; Iowa: Redwood; Cascade; Buffalo Center; Wisconsin: Marengo; Prairie, Crestwood; Estherville; Montana: Park City, Nebraska: Leigh; Superior; Ohio: Miami; Texas: Bowling Green; River Valley; South Dakota: Reslin; Tennessee: Bradley; Woodbury; Texas: Yessita; Virginia: Essex; Broadway; James Dole; Washington: Elma; West, West Virginia: Marion County, Hampshire County, Wisconsin: Westbrook; Missouri: Carlisle; Nebraska: St. Edward, Red Cloud; Ravenna; New Hampshire: Much-To-Do; New Jersey: Belvidere; Gloucester County; New Mexico: Goddard; Raton; New York: Lisbon; North Carolina: South Johnston; South Rowan, West Carter; North Dakota: Weldon; Oregon: Sherwood; Pennsylvania: Cedar Crest; Elizabethtown; South Carolina: Paul M. Dorman; South Dakota: Willow Lake; Texas: Baytown-Robert E. Lee; Virginia: Carroll County; Wisconsin: Blanchardville-Peacalona; New Auburn; Jackson Heights; Watford; Louisiana: Halfway; South Lafourche; Da Grone; Michigan: Van Buren Skills Center; Fort-venite; Minnesota: Lanesboro; Morris;

Peststone; Missouri: Perryville; Hallway; Montana: Fairfield; Nebraska: Lakeview; Nevada: Carson Valley; New York: Chemung-Two; North Carolina: Chase North Isdell; North Lenoir; Ohio: Columbiana County; Ys; Alexander; Greenville; Oklahoma: Parkett; Altus; Oregon: Illinois Valley; South Carolina: Pleasant Hill; South Carolina: Harrisburg; Utah: Lehi; Virginia: Bluestone Middle; Gerina; New Jersey: Belvidere; Gloucester County; New Mexico: Glencoe; Wyoming: Gillette

Bronze

California: Mt. Whitney; Sutter; Delaware: Smyrna; Georgia: Towns County; Cook; Maine: Limestone; Presque Isle; Maryland: Walkersville; Frederick County; Vermont: Massachusetts: Essex; Minnesota: West Coniston; Wilmar; Madia; Washington: Arlington; Nebraska: St. Edward, Red Cloud; Ravenna; New Hampshire: Much-To-Do; New Jersey: Belvidere; Gloucester County; New Mexico: Goddard; Raton; New York: Lisbon; North Carolina: South Johnston; South Rowan, West Carter; North Dakota: Weldon; Oregon: Sherwood; Pennsylvania: Cedar Crest; Elizabethtown; South Carolina: Paul M. Dorman; South Dakota: Willow Lake; Texas: Baytown-Robert E. Lee; Virginia: Carroll County; Wisconsin: Blanchardville-Peacalona; New Auburn; Jackson Heights; Watford; Louisiana: Halfway; South Lafourche; Da Grone; Michigan: Van Buren Skills Center; Fort-venite; Minnesota: Lanesboro; Morris;

Ag Ed Network

The year hands-on Ag Ed Training, advanced and technical sessions were once again offered. The special message center was again in operation for

Food For America

Sponsored by Mobay Chemical Corporation, Agricultural Chemical Division

The new Food For America materials were introduced at last year's convention and are designed to educate America's school children about agriculture. Five chapters from Kansas and Missouri were introduced at the Food For America program to metropolitan schools during the convention. Liberty Senior High School, Holden High School, DeSosa Senior High School, Leansburg High School and Atchison County Community High School.

The National FFA Public Service Campaign

Sponsored by John Deere Foundation

The 1987 television Public Service Announcement was premiered at the convention during a special recognition of the 150th anniversary of Deere & Co. The FFA drew home the many of the long-term career opportunities available to young people and the role that FFA and vocational agriculture play in obtaining them.

National FFA Chapter Award Program



This award is for chapters who have reached the rating level of a Superior Chapter by organizing and conducting an exceptional program of activities that provided valuable experiences for their members. Each chapter was judged on performance in 11 areas: Supervised Occupational Experience, enterprises, cooperative activities, community service, leadership development, earnings and savings by members, state and national activities, conduct of meetings, scholarship, public relations, alumni relations and recreation. Chapters were ranked gold, silver or bronze for their accomplishments.

Gold

Arkansas: Stuttgart, Colorado: Valley, Moffat County, Florida: Sarasota Vo-Ag, Avon Park, Trenton, Georgia: Perry High, Franklin County, Illinois: Sycamore, Bushnell-Prairie City, Amboy, Winchester, LeRoy, Clinton, Georgetown, Waterman, Indiana: Prairie Heights, Benton Central, Woodland, Clinton Central, Shenandoah, Tipton, Southmont, North Montgomery, Iowa: Manchester, Algona, Creston, Buffalo Central, Prairie, Guttenberg, North Lima, Lin-Mar, De Witt Central, Estherville, Appleton, Kansas: Markato, Plainville, Jack-

son Heights, Kentucky: Spencer County, Breckinridge County, Reidland, Lyon County, Graves County, Caldwell County, Louisiana: Oak Grove High, Michigan: Marshall, Corunna, Charlotte, Minnesota: New Urm, Canton Falls, Missouri: Union, Dexcela, Lamar, Troy, Nebraska: Leigh, Lakeview, Nelson, North Bend Hill, Two Rivers, East Butler, Blue Hill, Tri County, Nevada: Ruby Mountain, Churchill County, New Mexico: Las Cruces, Goddard, New York: Tri-Valley, North Dakota: Rugby, Ohio: West Chester, Bolivar, Alexander, Backeys Valley, River View, Columbiana County JVS, Trumbull County JVS.

Bowling Green, Bellevue, Oklahoma: The Lawton, Owasso, Guthrie, Chickasha, Parcell, Billings, Springer, Tennessee: White House, Bradley, Bartlett, Martin-Westview, Texas: Baytown, Robert E. Lee, Clear Creek, Cleburne, Katy, Mission, Utah: Milford Edge, Virginia: James Wood, Strasburg, Broadway, Spotswood, Montevideo Intermediate, Appomattox Senior, Fort Delancey, Washington: Elma, Montesano, Yelm, Everygreen, Enumclaw, Wisconsin: Monroe, Mount Horeb, Denmark, Wyoming: Douglas, Gillette

Silver

Alabama: Crossville, Arizona: Antelope, Peoria, Arizona: Riverside, Lavaca, Marshall, California: Kingsburg, Mt. Whitney-Neska, Colorado: Delta, Florida: Santa Fe Senior, Orlando Colonial, Williston Senior, Chelland Senior, South

City Senior, Sawannee, Ponce de Leon Senior, Lafayette Senior, Lake Butler Senior, Georgia: Gilmer County, Colquitt County, Idaho: Kuna, Mendham, Illinois: Dekalb, Salem, Teutopolis, Warsaw, NW Suburban District #21-21, Sparkland, Westminster, Moweaqua, Tuscola, Southwestern (Passa), Cisasa Park, Indiana: Carroll, Southwestern-Hawthorn, Mt. Vernon (Dist. X), Western Boone, Iowa: Marano, Vinton, North Polk, Waverly, Shell Rock, Dysart Genesee, Kansas: Mission Valley, Hill City, Uniontown, Cherryvale, Arkansas City, Lubbock County, Winfield, Kentucky: Scott County, Warren County, Apollo, Oldham County, Louisiana: Crenore, Midland, Maryland: Brunswick Senior, Hartford Vo-Tech, Michigan: Hopkins, Byron, Unionville-Sebewaing Area, Minnesota: Wilmar, Sherburn, Greenbush, Lakefield, Madelia, Belgrade, Missouri: Carthage, Halfway, Lakeview-R-III, El Dorado Springs, Carl Junction, Aurora, Albany R-3, Four Rivers AVT-2-Washington, Dweaville, Chillicothe, Cass County Vo-Tech, Montana: Rathred, Bannville, Nebraska: Norris, St. Edward, New Jersey: Allentown, New York: Sidney, North Carolina: Bartlett Vancey, North Tredell, North Dakota: Williston, Jamestown, Lisbon, Dixie, Southeastern-Clark, Northwestern-Clark, Wilmington, Johnston, Oak Harbor, Elgin, Timora, Montgomer County JVS, Hillsboro, Southeastern-Hoss, Eastern Brown County, Eastwood, Oklahoma: Tipton, Holdenville, Laverne, Durant, Allen, Chouteau, Adair, Shattuck, Welton, Oklahoma: Tecomseh, Canfield, Weleetka, Marlow, Devon, Yarnhill-Carlton, Wallawa, Pennsylvania: Twin Valley, Lower Dauphin, South Carolina: Pleasant Hill, Paul M. Dorman, South Dakota: Elkton, Roslyn, Lennos Sundstrom, Tennessee: Powell Valley, Cherokee, Woodbury, McMinn County, Warren County, Pook, Texas: Pleasanton, James E. Taylor, Ross S. Sterling, Callahan, Cal Farley's Boys Ranch, East Central, Weatherford, Day-

ton, Gilmer, Iowa Park, Booker, Lorena, Leflore, Hamlet, Frankston, Pahrland, Tom Bean, Plano Senior, Dumas, Garland, Ysleta, Kingsville, Mansfield, Livingston, Utah: Bear River, Springville, Vermont: Ensbury, Virginia: Laurel Park, Carolina, Stonewall Jackson Jr., West Virginia: Marion County, Mason County Vocational, Wisconsin: Beaver Dam, De Pere, New Auburn, New Holstein, Madison East, Delavan-Darien, West DePere, Blanchardville-Pecatonica, Marshfield, Grand, Mauston, Janesville-Parker, Bloomer

Bronze

Alabama: Dale County High, Ider, George W. Long, Daleville, Douglas, Scottsboro, Ekman, Limestone County, Alaska: Delta Junction, North Pole, Arkansas: Fayetteville, Lonoke, County Line, California: Fairbrook 327, Norco, Colorado: Byers, Flagler, Connecticut: Housatonic Valley, Delaware: Smyrna, Millford, Florida: Lake Butler Junior, West Grand, Georgia: Pierce County, Cherokee, Newton County, Hawaii: Kailua, Illinois: Hampshire, Ashland, Indiana: Angola Indiana, Louisiana: Kibbourn, Hennesaw, Maine: Limestone, Presque Isle, Michigan: Ubly, Lakers, Minnesota: Stillwater, Mississippi: Carthage, Nettleton, New Hampshire: Macho-To-Do, New Jersey: Belvidere, North Carolina: West Carteret, Chase, Southern Wayne, South Carolina: North Dakota: Larnore J.E. Fairgate, Oklahoma: Pawnee, Thomas, Strother, Luther, Glencoe, Oregon: Forest Grove, Oregon Island, Schute, Lexington County, Gilbert, South Dakota: Garrettsville, Tennessee: Hermitage, South Carolina: Peabody, Clarksville-North, Meigs County, Utah: Tooele, Vermont: North Country, Virginia: Carroll County, Jefferson Forest, Liberty Union, Nelson Senior, West Virginia: Hampshire County, Wisconsin: Black Hawk, South Wayne

National FFA Alumni

The Fifteenth National FFA Alumni Convention, held in conjunction with the National FFA Convention, served as a business meeting and awards program for the 126 delegates and approximately 400 Alumni in attendance.

The following items were approved during the business meeting: The FFA Alumni for the first time presented a new membership builder award to state presidents increasing membership by 50 or more in their respective states. Winners from California, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Indiana, Oklahoma and Wyoming received navy (all wool) sport coats provided by the Ace Bolt and Nut Company.

The FFA Alumni has over 27,000 active members in over 1,100 local affiliates generating support for vocational agriculture FFA while motivating and inspiring FFA members in local, state and national levels of leadership, competition and individual personal growth.

Outstanding FFA Alumni



These prestigious awards recognize the FFA Alumni affiliates for their outstanding accomplishments in supporting and serving Vocational Agriculture—FFA. All of the affiliates were previously selected as exemplifying outstanding qualities which merit national recognition by their State Associations.

National Winner—New Lexington, Ohio 1st Runner-Up—Denmark, Wisconsin

Gold

Georgia: Gilmer County, Illinois: Bushnell-Prairie City, Westminster, Kansas: Washington, Minnesota: Parkers Prairie, Nebraska: East Butler, Scottsbluff, Ohio: Buckeye Valley, New Lexington, Wiscon-

consin: Luxemburg-Casco

Silver

Florida: Sarasota, Kansas: Gray Center, Hill City, Michigan: Marshall, Minnesota: New Urm, Nebraska: Lakeview, North Carolina: South Row, Tennessee: Hall, Washington: Yelm-Rimer, Wisconsin: Arkansas, Bondouf, Dimro, West De Pere

Bronze

Indiana: Delta, Iowa: Central Community, Kentucky: Barren County, Maryland: Walkersville, Missouri: Dantz, South Dakota: Groton

Leadership Workshops

The FFA Alumni successfully hosted five educational leadership workshops for FFA members and other convention attendees. The 1986 workshop leaders were: Melody Harrison, Arizona; Bill Carlan, Texas; Nancy Mason, Mississippi; Mark Herndon, Oklahoma; and Jack Stewart, Wyoming. Each of the workshop leaders are past National FFA Officers. This was the ninth year for the leadership workshops. Phyllis Sokolosky from Oklahoma was the 1985 chairperson of the workshops.

FFA Alumni Auction

The FFA Alumni Association held its first auction Wednesday evening following the Alumni banquet. Over 100 items were auctioned raising \$370. Examples of auction items included two round-trip Eastern airline tickets, meals at Kansas City restaurants, a moisture tester from Dickey John, a Seth Thomas Clock from Chevrolet Trucks and an Applehead videotape series from the National Farm Medicine Center. The FFA Alumni announced that the auction will become an annual event with plans to include even more items next year.

Outstanding FFA Alumni Achievement Awards

Exceptional leadership and superior accomplishments in service to vocational agriculture FFA and the agricultural industry are recognized by the National

FFA Alumni with this award. This year Layton G. Peters of Minnesota, Ted D. Ward of Nevada and Arthur R. Kurtz of Wisconsin were the recipients.



National FFA Alumni Presidents

The 1986-87 National FFA Alumni President, Larry Reese of Tallahassee, Florida received his gavel from retiring President, Gary L. Manicle of Columbus, Ohio.

Agricultural Proficiency Awards



A national winner was announced in each proficiency award areas during the Agricultural Proficiency Awards Pageant Friday evening. National winners were announced with brief slide shows of their projects while on stage. These members show the skills needed to develop the potential of their supervised Occupational Experience enterprises.

A STAR by the name indicates the NATIONAL WINNER in each proficiency area.

Agricultural Electrification

Sponsored by National Food and Energy Council, Inc.; Klein Tools, Inc., and The National FFA Foundation General Fund
 Central—Bryan Bower, Barry, Illinois
 Eastern—Mark Bradley, Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania
 Southern—Charles Hayes, Limestone, Tennessee
 Western—Richard Frech, Wakita, Oklahoma

Agricultural Mechanics

Sponsored by Case IH
 Central—Jesse Davis, Frankfort, Indiana
 Eastern—Scott Aeschliman, Wauson, Ohio
 Southern—Jeffery Duncan, Belton, South Carolina
 Western—Richard Rezendes, Chowchilla, California

Agricultural Processing

Sponsored by Carnation Company
 Central—David Shegitz, New Haven, Indiana
 Eastern—Nunzio Osello, Bellevue, Ohio
 Southern—Keith Starling, Avon Park, Florida
 Western—Dusty Shill, Wellton, Arizona

Agricultural Sales and/or Service

Sponsored by Chevrolet Motor Division-Trucks General Motors Corporation; Babson Brothers Company; and The National FFA Foundation General Fund
 Central—Roger Luebke, Jr., Clarks, Nebraska
 Eastern—Ruth Johnson, Medway, Ohio
 Southern—Randy Wright, Avon Park, Florida
 Western—Burtish Banning, III, Pine-
 dale, Wyoming

Beef Production

Sponsored by Nasco Division/ Nasco International, Inc.; and New Holland
 Central—Kurt Overstern, Greenbush, Minnesota
 Eastern—Andrew Meadows, Elkton, Virginia
 Southern—Marshall Johnson, Harrogate, Tennessee
 Western—Jay Overton, Pond Creek, Oklahoma

Cereal Grain Production

Sponsored by Du Pont Agricultural Chemicals
 Central—Douglas Prybyl, Denmark, Wisconsin
 Eastern—Ron Lortcher, Willard, Ohio
 Southern—Robert Hurt, Halls, Tennessee
 Western—Leo Tomsu, Medford, Oklahoma

Dairy Production

Sponsored by Alfa-Laval, Inc., Agri Group; American Breeders Service; and Bristol-Myers Animal Health
 Central—Brian Harbaugh, Elkhart, Iowa
 Eastern—Daryl Duncan, Warsaw, Ohio
 Southern—Lennie Webb, Lincoln, Arkansas
 Western—Brent Stahlman, Gage, Oklahoma

Diversified Crop Production

Sponsored by Cargill, Incorporated
 Central—Kenneth Bradley, Trafalgar, Indiana
 Eastern—David Miller, Washington, C.H., Ohio
 Southern—William McKenzie, Fairhope, Alabama
 Western—Mark Speaker, Bnggsdale, Colorado

Diversified Livestock Production

Sponsored by Wayne Feed Division/Continental Grain Company; and Dodge Division, Chrysler Corporation
 Central—Brad Chambliss, Hardinsburg, Kentucky
 Eastern—Craig Bailey, Harrisonburg, Virginia
 Southern—Derek Bartholomew, Huron, Tennessee
 Western—Ralph Perkins, Panguitch, Utah

Feed Grain Production

Sponsored by Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Incorporated
 Central—David Andregg, Guttenberg, Iowa
 Eastern—Charles Thomas, Winston-Salem, North Carolina
 Southern—David Preston, Cantonment, Florida
 Western—Jeffrey Cooksey, Roggen, Colorado

Fiber Crop Production

Sponsored by The Shell Companies Foundation, Incorporated; and Valmont Industries, Incorporated
 Central—Jason Blunt, Essex, Missouri
 Southern—Allen Lewis, Gates, Tennessee
 Western—Jason Chambers, Vinson, Oklahoma

Floriculture

Sponsored by The Leria Corporation; and The Paul Ecke Poinsettia Ranch; and The National FFA Foundation General Fund
 Central—Dawn Dostal, Manon, Iowa
 Eastern—Adrienne Shaffer, Knoxville, Maryland
 Southern—J. Scott Binkford, Bartlett, Tennessee
 Western—Carrie Koons, End, Oklahoma

Forage Crop

Sponsored by Gehl Company, Northrup King Company; and United Agri Products
 Central—Tim Favourite, Pleasant Lake, Indiana
 Eastern—Andrew Yost, Salisbury, North Carolina
 Southern—Bruce Pierce, Speedwell, Tennessee
 Western—Joel Gale, Seabrook, Texas

Forest Management

Sponsored by The National FFA Foundation General Fund
 Central—Thomas Eickholtz, Kendallville, Indiana
 Eastern—Jerry Starkey, Paris, Ohio
 Southern—Nathan Slaughter, Cheffland, Florida
 Western—Ken Hilkner, Eatonville, Washington

Fruit and/or Vegetable Production

Sponsored by Briggs & Stratton Corporation Foundation, Inc.
 Central—Carl Perkins, Howard, Kansas
 Eastern—Bonnie Wehr, Orefield, Pennsylvania
 Southern—James Williams, Worthington Springs, Florida
 Western—Darren Morris, Klein, Texas

Home and/or Farmstead Improvement

Sponsored by Ujohin, TUCO, and Agrow, Agricultural Division of The Ujohin Company
 Central—Scott Neighbor, Winthrop, Iowa
 Eastern—Rene Roy, West Chastleton, Vermont
 Southern—Jenny Hamby, Benton, Tennessee
 Western—Alan Manwaring, Port Orchard, Washington

Horse Proficiency

Sponsored by American Quarter Horse Association
 Central—Melodi Hurst, Harrisburg, South Dakota
 Eastern—Lydee Cassel, Hummelstown, Pennsylvania
 Southern—Donald Sterrman, II, Carencro, Louisiana
 Western—Ken Stamps, Norman, Oklahoma

Nursery Operations

Sponsored by The National FFA Foundation General Fund
 Central—John Richards, North Vernon, Indiana
 Southern—Jeff Jones, McMinnville, Tennessee
 Western—Chuck Blankenship, Arlington, Washington

Oil Crop Production

Sponsored by The Shell Companies Foundation, Inc.; and The Chicago Board of Trade
 Central—Scott Wilford, Farmington, Kentucky
 Eastern—John Davis, Delaware, Ohio
 Southern—Terrence Whitfield, Elko, Georgia
 Western—Kevin Hetrick, Grovada, Nevada

Outdoor Recreation

Sponsored by Yamaha Motor Corporation, U.S.A.
 Central—Brian Parkinson, Mt. Vernon, Indiana
 Eastern—Hal Whittington, Strasburg, Virginia
 Southern—Harold Duggan, Woodbury, Tennessee
 Western—Fred Schmiedke, Forest Grove, Oregon

Placement in Agricultural Production

Sponsored by CIBA GIGY Corporation; and International Minerals and Chemical Corporation
 Central—Karl Nagel, Rensselaer, Indiana
 Eastern—Steven Buscher, New Weston, Ohio
 Southern—Bill Laird, Sanderson, Florida
 Western—Kathy Katzer, Elma, Washington

Poultry Production

Sponsored by Chore-Time Equipment, Inc.; Red Brand Fence/ Made by Keystone Steel and Wire Company; and The National FFA Foundation General Fund
 Central—Craig Olson, Parkers Prairie, Minnesota
 Eastern—Kevin Richert, Danville, Ohio
 Southern—Eric Dutton, Benton, Tennessee
 Western—Ken Mitchell, Elk Grove, California

National FFA Contests



Sheep Production

Sponsored by American Sheep Producers Council, Inc./Sheep Industry Development Program, Inc./Manna Pro Corporation and The National FFA Foundation General Fund

- Central—Kerri Krafka, Dysart, Iowa
 Eastern—Billy Wade, III, Greenville, Virginia
 Southern—Anita Golden, Arthur, Tennessee
 ■ Western—Brenda Lowe, Drilma, California

Soil and Water Management

Sponsored by Ford Motor Company Fund

- Central—Mark Smith, New Haven, Indiana
 Eastern—David Crank, Henderson, West Virginia
 Southern—Ray Hemick, Avon Park, Florida
 Western—Tom Smith, Aguanga, California

Specialty Animal Production

Sponsored by Purina Mills, Inc., and The National FFA Foundation General Fund

- Central—Michael Roy, Shoals, Indiana
 ■ Eastern—Randy Tice, Kenton, Ohio
 Southern—Jeffery Stalvey, Hahira, Georgia
 Western—Justin Avall, Homer, Alaska

Specialty Crop Production

Sponsored by RJR Nabisco, Inc.

- Central—Scott Travis, Taylorsville, Kentucky
 Eastern—David Snead, South Hill, Virginia
 Southern—Danny Wright, Farmington, Arkansas

Swine Production

Sponsored by Pfizer Incorporated/Agricultural Division

- Central—Edward Sheldon, Greencastle, Indiana
 Eastern—Todd Benecoff, Kutztown, Pennsylvania
 Southern—John Gibson, Union Grove, Alabama
 Western—Timothy Johnson, Turlock, California

Turf and Landscape Management

Sponsored by D. M. Scott & Sons

- Central—Brad Meyerholtz, Evansville, Indiana
 ■ Eastern—Scott Johnson, Northboro, Massachusetts
 Southern—Joseph Dudley, Trenton, Tennessee
 Western—Kirk Harris, Richfield, Utah

Wildlife Management

Phil Morris Incorporated

- Central—Ken Baasi, Iron, Minnesota
 Eastern—Shannon Inman, Newport, North Carolina
 Southern—Sheila Webb, Lincoln, Arkansas
 ■ Western—Bret Mause, Elk City, Oklahoma

National Contests begin at the chapter level and proceed through contests at the district and state levels. The top team in each state qualifies for the National FFA Contests held during the convention. These contests let members demonstrate the skills and knowledge developed in vocational agriculture and FFA in a competitive spirit. Well over 100,000 FFA members compete in these contests each year above the chapter level. Teams in the National Contests are ranked gold, silver and bronze in an undesignated order, except for the announcement of the first place team and high individual.

Agricultural Mechanics Contest

Sponsored by Firestone Trust Fund

- First Place Team—Jim Hanson, Rich Bergstrom, Alan Schmitz, Adams, Minnesota

High Individual—Kent Starkenborg, Stanwood, Washington

Dairy Contest

Sponsored by Associated Milk Producers, Inc.

- First Place Team—Eric Schulte, Kirk Schultz, Scott Sooy, Graton, Ohio

High Individual—Kirk Schultz, Graton, Ohio

Dairy Foods Contest

Sponsored by Mid America Dairyman, Inc. and Patz Sales, Inc.

- First Place Team—Elene Phillips, Lan Dawn Beberera, Sonja Bettenecourt, Hartford, California

High Individual—Lari Dawn Beberera, Hartford, California

Farm Business Management Contest

Sponsored by Deere & Co.

- First Place Team—Bob Honey, David Shumaker, Doug Thornton, Carl Junction, Missouri

High Individual—Will McDonald, Bismark, North Dakota

Floriculture Contest

Sponsored by the National FFA Foundation General Fund

- First Place Team—Christy Youngblood, Derrick Beavers, Gary Hart, Bear Creek, North Carolina

High Individual—Christy Youngblood, Bear Creek, North Carolina

Forestry Contest

Sponsored by Homelite Division of Textron, Inc.; Temple-Eastex, Inc.; and Hammermill Paper Co.

- First Place Team—Tony Waller, Tim Hughes, Stephen Tinsley, Atlanta, Georgia

High Individual—Mariland Massey, Louisville, Mississippi

Livestock Contest

Sponsored by Purina Mills, Inc.

- First Place Team—Rosemary Frao, David Gosman, Steve Gambini, Arroyo Grande, California

High Individual—Kelly Schaff, Mandan, North Dakota

Meats Contests

Sponsored by Geo. A. Hormel & Co. and Oscar Mayer Foods Corporation

- First Place Team—Jennifer Ashley, Kevin Caldwell, Johnell Schnuriger, San Antonio, Texas

High Individual—Johnell Schnuriger, San Antonio, Texas

Nursery/Landscape Contest

Sponsored by American Association of Nurserymen, Inc.; Wholesale Nursery Growers of America, Inc.; Kubota Tractor Corporation; and Cotter & Co.

- First Place Team—Zachary Campbell, Teddy Gregory, Andy Rogers, Dunwoody, Georgia

High Individual—Kim Phillips, Bear Creek, North Carolina

Poultry Contest

Sponsored by Victor F. Weaver, Inc.; Pilgrim's Pride Corporation and Tyson Foods, Inc.

- First Place Team—John Oreckow, Shawn Harris, Daryl Real, San Antonio, Texas

High Individual—Daryl Real, San Antonio, Texas



NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL CAREER SHOW



The National Agricultural Career Show and Hall of States was a cooperative effort of the National FFA Organization and major trade associations, professional societies, educational institutions, State FFA Associations and qualifying agribusiness firms concerned with the industry of agriculture. This year's show was bigger and better than ever. Members and guests were able to see a showcase of careers available to today's FFA member, ask questions and gather brochures of interest. Many took a complete set of career information back to their advisors, classmates, student and guidance counselors.

Ag Ed Network/Agdata Resources, Inc.
Agri Education
Alfa-Laval Agri, Inc.
Alpha Gamma Sigma Fraternity
American Angus Association
American Association of Nurserymen
American Breeders Service
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Fisheries Society, Missouri Chapter
American Gelbvieh Association
American Morgan Horse Institute
American Phytopathological Society
American Polled Hereford Association
American Quarter Horse Association
American Sallers Association
American Sentimental Association
American Soc. of Farm Managers & Rural Appraisers
American Soybean Association
American Veterinary Medical Association
American—International Charolais Association
Bartlett Agri Enterprises
Bob Jones University
Briggs and Stratton Corporation

Bureau of the Census
Case I H
Chevrolet Motor Division
Coca-Cola USA
Cook College, Rutgers University
Cornell University
Cyanamid Agricultural Division
Deere and Company
DICKEY-john Corporation
Oversited Marketing Association, Inc.
Division of Agriculture/NASULGC
Dodge Truck Operations
Oow Chemical U.S.A.
Owage Horticultural School
East Butler FFA Alumni
Edge Learning Institute, Inc.
Farm and Industrial Equipment Inst.
Farmhouse International Fraternity
Federal Aviation Administration
Federal Crop Insurance
Florida Department of Citrus
University of Florida
Ford Motor Company
Foreign Candy Co., Inc., The
Frank's Nursery and Crafts, Inc.
University of Georgia
Hampshire Swine Registry
University of Illinois
Instructional Materials Lab
International Brangus Breeders Association
International Minerals and Chemical Corp./Rairo
Intertec Publishing Corp.
International Minerals and Chemical Corporation
Iowa State University
Kaiser/Estsch
Lincoln University
Louisiana State University
Mangan Sales Co., Inc./Lumber City Products
Mid-America Dairyman, Inc.
Mid-America Vocational Curriculum Consortium
University of Minnesota
University of Missouri, College of Agriculture

Mobay Corporation, AgChemicals Division
Modesto Junior College
NA-CHURS Plant Food Company
National Farmers Organization
National Farmers Union
National Food and Energy Council, Inc.
National Grain and Feed Association
National Agricultural Aviation Association
National Vocational Agric. Teachers' Association
Navy Recruiting Command
University of Nebraska, College of Agriculture
Nickerson American Plant Breeders-Argi Pro
North American Limousin
North Dakota State University
Northwest Missouri State University
Ohio Agricultural Education Curriculum
Ohio State University

Park College
Pioneer H-Bred International, Inc.
Pipstone Vo Tech
Postsecondary Agricultural Students
Purdue University School of Agriculture
Ruritan National
School of the Ozarks
Seid-Sweet Growers, Inc.
Select Sires Inc.
Shell Agricultural Chemical Company
Sire Power, NOBA, KABSU/Allied Genes
Society for Range Management
Society of American Florists
Society of American Foresters
South Carolina State College
Southeast Community College-Beatrice
Southwestern Vocational Technical Institute
Stauffer Chemical Company
Student Conservation Society, Inc.

Sunkist Growers, Inc.
Surge-Babson Brow. Co.
Texas A&M University-College of Agriculture
Texas Tech University
The National Rifle Association
Tri-State Breeders Cooperative
Union Carbide Agricultural Products Co.
U.S. Marine Corps
USDA Forest Service
Upjohn Company
US Army Recruiting Command
US Air Force Recruiting USA: Farmers Home Administration
Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University
Wildlife Society, Missouri Chapter
University of Wisconsin
Wix Filters
Yamaha Motor Corporation, U.S.A.



ACCESS

ACCESS is a new membership service for agricultural education operated by the National FFA Supply Service. The ACCESS booth at the National Career Show received a lot of attention from vo-ag instructors and students alike. ACCESS provides members with a software Preview Library, Educational Software Reviews, computer software at special educational prices and a one year subscription to the ACCESS-interface newsletter.

ACCESS is a new type of service offered by the National FFA Supply Service. FFA has always provided many services for FFA members, local and state FFA Advisors, Alumni, FFA Chapters and agricultural education in general. ACCESS is a special subscription service aimed at agricultural education and the local agricultural instructor in particular.

HALL OF STATES

Alaska	Iowa	Nevada	Oregon	Wisconsin
Arkansas	Kansas	New York	Pennsylvania	Wyoming
Connecticut	Kentucky	North Carolina	South Dakota	
Idaho	Missouri	North Dakota	Tennessee	
Illinois	Montana	Ohio	Tennessee	
Indiana	Nebraska	Oklahoma	Washington	

Public Speaking Contests

Extemporaneous Public Speaking

Sponsored by American Farm
Bureau Federation

The national winner was chosen from four regional winners each of who presented his or her speech from the convention stage on Friday. Contestants had 30 minutes to prepare a four to six minute speech on agriculture using the participant's knowledge and five printed resources. Judging was based on quality, delivery of the speech and ability to answer questions from judges.



National Winner—Kenneth E. (Buddy) Coleman, Lexington, Tennessee
First Runner Up—Robin Burns, Andover, Connecticut

Second Runner Up—Brian Mulnix, Ridge-
way, Missouri
Third Runner Up—Paula McKillip, Kennew-
ick, Washington

“Why Should Students Considering Professional Careers In Agriculture Take Vocational Agriculture In High School?”

Or I want to be an ag mechanic, or I want to be a natural resources expert, when I grow up I want to be an agribusiness manager. When I get older, I love to play with computers, so I'd like to be an ag technologist. Maybe some day if I am lucky when I grow up I'd like to be a professional speaker. But where can we learn about all of these things—the knowledge and the skills that we will need to live our dreams? You learn all of these things through vocational agriculture in your local high school. Why should students considering professional careers in agriculture take vo-ag in high school? I think there are three very simple reasons that answers this question very clearly.

First of all — for the education value.

Send of all — for benefits in the job market and third — for the chance to be a member, to be a part of the FFA.

Now we all know that in vocational agriculture we have the opportunity to learn so much, much more than just those farming skills. I think the October edition of the *Farm Journal* magazine said this, and I quote, "studies in soils, fertilizers, feeds and feeding, co-op chemical and ag mechanics, and the use of the computer in the classroom to practical use, i.e. in your history class you learn about history, but in ag production and vo-ag you learn about history and more." Not only can you learn about history in vo-ag, but there are so many different things you can learn. If you are interested in computers, now all across this great country you can learn more about computers in vo-ag programs going into the local high schools in the vo-ag program. Giving students like you and I the chance to work directly with computers in our vo-ag classrooms. If you are interested in being a better speaker, if you are interested in becoming a better leader, if you are interested in learning about parliamentary, the organization you can learn all of this and much, much more in vo-ag.

According to statistics from the USDA, it says that there are 22.5 million people involved in the field of agriculture. Now it's obvious to me, fellow FFA members, that the jobs are there, in fact there are 22.5 million of those jobs that are waiting for you and I. All we have to do is prepare ourselves to survive in this job market. I think our own National Advisor, Dr. Case, said it most adequately in a recent edition of the *Kansas City Times*. He said this and I quote, "The key to surviving is management and decision making." The key to surviving in the agricultural industry is management and decision making. We all know that through vocational agriculture

we learn about this management and these decision making skills that we must have to succeed. If you choose ag production, then fine, you can learn how to be a good manager and make decisions in ag production. If you choose to be in the agribusiness field you can learn how to be a good decision maker and a good manager in the agribusiness field. I am reminded of a gentleman that I spoke to in my home community, a local agribusinessman and he said, "Buddy, I prefer that my employees be graduates of vo-ag in their high schools."

I think the third reason that it is important that we consider vo-ag is the chance to be involved in the FFA. That's right, the Future Farmers of America. It is my personal opinion that the FFA is the single most motivational, inspirational youth organization in this great world in which we live. You see you take the knowledge that you acquire in vo-ag, apply that knowledge in the FFA and you can succeed. The FFA encourages members, it challenges members to go into competition head on, using that knowledge and those skills that they have learned. It motivates vo-ag students to succeed to use their knowledge.

Educational values are important, benefits in the job market are important and the chance to be a member of the FFA are all reasons why students considering professional careers in agriculture should take vo-ag in their high schools.

Prepared Public Speaking

Sponsored by FMC Foundation

Four regional winners wrote and presented a six to eight minute speech related to agriculture before the convention on Thursday evening. All four were judged upon their delivery from the convention stage, content and composition and their ability to answer questions from the judges.



National Winner—Bart Collins, Harrison, Arkansas
First Runner Up—Carrie Brown, Lawton, Oklahoma

Second Runner-Up—Deanna Billings,
Green Ridge, Missouri
Third Runner-Up—Tricia Kritzler, Kenton,
Ohio

FREE ENTERPRISE: the Answer!!

Honorable judges, fellow FFA members, and guests, since the beginning of man's existence on the face of the earth, one profession has been the backbone of every society — that of the farmer. No other profession has been more respected, honored and esteemed than that of tilling the soil and raising food products. This has been true down through the ages and continues to this day.

Some of you in today's audience may not agree with what I am about to say, but I feel it is time we take a good hard look at the plight of American farming. All you have to do today is turn on the news and you will hear how many American farmers are in serious financial trouble. Many farms are being sold. Many farmers are in debt to the extent they have never been before. Many will not make a crop this year

because they cannot get the necessary financial backing. The backbone of our country seems to be so bent out of shape that we wonder if recovery is possible.

With farmers in the U.S. today being able to produce record crops each year, why do we have a situation where it seems impossible to make ends meet by farming? What's wrong with the American farming industry today?

I first want to make it very clear that I am sympathetic to the plight of farmers. I, like everyone else, hate to hear of a family losing its farm, perhaps a farm that has been in the family for generations. I, like many here, would like to have the opportunity to own a successful farming operation someday; but to go in to a business that appears to be doomed to a fate of overextended debt and long hours of unfruitful toil does not appear to be very attractive.

We are going to have to change some of our basic ideas to ever get the farming industry back on its feet, to get it back to the point where it is a profitable business and an attractive way of life.

I would like to comment on some of the problems that I feel have contributed to the dilemma many American farmers now

I think the first problem we have to face is the idea that anyone who wants to be a farmer has a God-given right to be one. I know of no other profession that requires expertise in so many different fields as does farming. A farmer has to have training in mechanics, animal husbandry, veterinary science, agronomy, soil management, and — perhaps most of all — business. Add to this the fact that he must be willing to work long hard hours in all types of weather, and you begin to put together the American farmer. We have

The second thing we have to contend with is a cheap food policy by our government. The average American family spends a small percentage of its income for food. We all enjoy the fact that the cost of food products requires a lower percentage of our income each year, and this is very popular with politicians, but who is paying the price? Cheap food is great for the consumer but makes it almost impossible for the farmer to receive a fair price for his product based on the price of production. We are going to have to face the fact that we will either pay for food over the counter or under the counter through higher taxes to support government farm programs.

The third problem is one that seems to prevail on all of our society: that if an industry or a segment of an industry gets into financial trouble, it is the responsibility of the government to bail it out. We hear the phrase "the government has to do something!" Many of our problems have been caused by the government "doing something." When the government steps in to support one program, it usually undercuts another segment of agriculture, creating a greater imbalance than previously existed. A true free enterprise system, where supply and demand determines products produced and the price of those products, is the only way the future of farming can be improved. We must have more faith in the free enterprise system, which is the heart and soul of our capitalistic economy.

The fourth thing we must try to overcome is overreaction. Bankers will often loan any amount of money to an industry that appears to be booming. Farmers have received what has proven to be bad advice. Agriculture has appeared to be booming because the price of land has gone up. Farmers have been encouraged to expand their operations and go into debt based on the value of land — not the productivity of the land. The commonly made statement "there's more people being born every day, but there will never be any more land" has contributed to the false idea that the value of land will continue to go up. But, lo-and-behold, the impossible has occurred: land prices have begun to decline, 19% in Arkansas, 38% in Mississippi, and as much as 46% in Texas. This decline in the value of land has caused the real worth of farmers to be reduced drastically. If a farmer can't show enough collateral to cover his debts, it is next to impossible

ble to obtain loans for production purposes; and if his debt load is such that the productivity of the land will not reduce his debt, he is in serious trouble. That's what has happened to many farmers! Farmers, bankers and government officials must resist basing debt limits on the net worth of a farmer, and instead base debt load on the payback potential of a farming operation. A farmer cannot rely on inflation and the increase of land prices to bail him out.

I think American agriculture has a great future, but I believe we must reduce and eventually eliminate government programs that undermine our future. I realize that to stop government programs today is a very scary thing. But let us ask ourselves: Have they really helped or are our programs based on which segments of agriculture can tolerate the loudest? Do we not all agree that our so-called "farm package" generally is one-sided, that while solving a problem for one area of farming, it creates more problems for others? Do you know that the USDA will pay out an estimated 8 billion dollars in deficiency or land diversion payments this year? That's 28% of the total net cost this year? And, as a result of the 1985 farm bill, we will have to be subjected to receive, yet another farm bill. I am a graduate of the University of Wisconsin State University poll discovered that 45% of the farmers surveyed are philosophically opposed to government programs?

Farmers must have and deserve to have good sound financial advice. Bankers and loan officers must be educated to the point where they can help farmers, not cause them to get into greater debt loads than they can handle. Farmers must realize they themselves are businessmen and educate themselves not only in producing a product but managing a farm operation from a business standpoint. Government programs should be geared around education, not taking one segment of agriculture and supporting it to the detriment of another.

Our country, and especially our agriculture industry, was based on free enterprise. If we do not allow free enterprise to control our economy, then special interest groups will always be able to determine our farm programs. I'm here today to tell you that our national farm program should be based on one principle, and one principle only. **FREE ENTERPRISE!**

National Convention Committee Reports



Nominating Committee Report

We, the Nominating Committee, have given careful and deliberate consideration to all applicants running for National Offices. The Committee nominates the following slate of candidates to the delegates of the 59th National Conference to serve as National Officers for the year 1986-87.

President, Kevin Eblen, Iowa
Secretary, Kevin Yost, Nebraska
Vice President, Central Region, Dean Harder, Minnesota
Vice President, Eastern Region, Wiley Loflin, North Carolina
Vice President, Southern Region, Jayme Feary, Alabama
Vice President, Western Region, Darren Coppock, Oregon
National Treasurer, David Miller, Maryland
National Executive Secretary, C. Coleman Harris, Washington, D.C.
National Advisor, Larry D. Case, Washington, D.C.

Respectfully submitted:
Donald Ray Nash, Mississippi, Chairman
Bill Hollis, Illinois, Co-Chairman
Scott Stump, Indiana, Secretary
Trent Lynn Hames, Oklahoma
Matthew C. Musselman, Iowa
Micky Elmore, West Virginia
Bruce Westerman, Arkansas
Jack Blattner, Idaho
Chris Englebrecht, New York
James W. Warren, Consultant
James P. Clouse, Consultant

National FFA Convention Committee

We, the members of the 1986 National Convention Committee, on behalf of the delegate body, after careful evaluation of the 59th National FFA Convention, wish to extend our sincere appreciation and congratulations to many individuals who gave their time and talents towards a very successful convention.

1. Our National FFA Officers—Rick Mair, Coby Shorter III, Cindy Blair, Kevin Colman, Kipling Godwin, and Robert Weaver
2. Our National Executive Secretary, Mr. Coleman Harris, National Advisor, Dr. Larry Case, National Treasurer, David Miller, and Mr. Tony Hoyt, Program Specialist-Leadership
3. Steve Meredith for the opening invocation
4. The Honorable, Richard L. Berkley, mayor of Kansas City, Mr. Bob MacGregor, President Kansas City Chamber of Commerce for their warmth and hospitality in welcoming the National Convention to Kansas City, Missouri
5. Mr. Jack Anderson, for his informative and innovative comments
6. Mr. Dan Outenberg, Kansas City Royals Baseball Club, for his welcome and appearance
7. Mrs. Susan Forte, finalist in the teacher in space program, for her motivational presentation
8. A very special thank you to all of the sponsors of the FFA and the FFA Foundation for their continued support and interest in the future of our organization
9. Mr. Bill Munsell, 1986 Chairman, Foundation Sponsors Board for his dedication and leadership the past year
10. Mr. Robert Langhans II, 1987 Chairman, Foundation Sponsors Board, for his optimism and enthusiasm

11. Mr. Bob Moawad, President of the Edge Learning Institute for his outstanding message that will be a special memory of this convention
12. Honorable Richard E. Lyng, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, for his greetings and message of optimism towards American agriculture
13. Honorable E. "Kiki" de la Garza, Chairman, House Committee on agriculture for his greetings and special remarks about our organization and the future of American agriculture
14. Bruce Jenner, for his dedication and outstanding service to his country and its people

15. John Schneider for his special appearance
16. Reba McEntire, Sawyer Brown and John Schneider for their presentation at the American Royal
17. Members of the National FFA Alumni who conducted the leadership workshops
18. Judges and timekeepers for their dedication
19. National FFA Courtesy Corps for their cooperation in making this convention a success
20. The dedication displayed by Mr. Roger Heath, National FFA band director, Mr. Stan Kingma, National Chorus director and Don and Martha Erickson, directors of

- the National talent
21. Sponsors, participants and exhibitors of the Career Show for their worthwhile efforts displayed through the last twenty one years at the national convention
22. Convention organizer
23. Enthusiastic speakers at all the various meals and leadership programs throughout this week
24. Many thanks for the dedication displayed in the newsroom and the staff of the FFA TIMES. Our sincere appreciation to Jacques seed company for sponsoring the FFA TIMES
25. Attendees of FFA members and guests at the 59th FFA convention

EXCELLENCE

You don't have to look far to find those who will leave their mark on our future. They can be found in the local high school agriculture classroom.

Today, young men and women study agriculture and prepare for over 200 challenging and rewarding careers. Along the way, FFA offers a vast array of programs and opportunities to help them develop that rarest of commodities: excellence. They are the leaders for the new fields of agriculture!



MADE IN THE FFA.



26. Convention Committee consultant staff and state staff for their words of advice and guidance.

27. A special thanks to all those who helped set-up and decorate the convention setting.

We also submit the following suggestions for improvements or changes in future National FFA Conventions:

1. We recommend that the newly-elected National FFA officers have a terrific year as they help us explore the new fields of agriculture.
 2. Those participating and auditioning for talent should be shown more courtesy. They should not be required to be at the convention early because it causes travel and expense difficulties and participants should be better informed of performance times.
 3. More upbeat organ music during lag times on stage and long ceremonies.
 4. A shuttle service be operated from hotels in alliance with National programs and contests and also from the airport.
 5. Doors be regulated to prevent strong drafts and cold from disturbing guests on convention floor.
 6. Continue use of safety cards available at registration.
 7. Include maps of Kansas City and convention center in program.
 8. Give band and chorus more exposure outside of the national convention.
- The National FFA Convention Committee highly recommends that the 430,000 FFA members continue to realize the importance of our organization towards the future of Agriculture, America, and our world, and that everyone strive for a very successful year in 1987...

Respectfully submitted,
Chairman—Raynette Halemsu, Hawaii
Co-Chairman—Colin Mellon, Arizona
Brent Vislimer, Colorado
William Ray, South Carolina
Mark Hooper, Maryland
Perry Denton, New York
Wanda Burr, Michigan
Becky Carter, Mississippi

Auditing Committee

We, the auditing committee of the 59th National FFA Convention, recommend to the National FFA organization:

1. The audit report of Sloy, Malone and Company found satisfactory and meeting the requirements of Public Law 740 for the fiscal year of September 1, 1985 to August 31, 1986, be accepted.

2. A condensed financial report be again distributed to each official delegate. The report should include balance sheets of assets and liabilities, statements of revenue and expenses, and changes in fund balances as taken from the auditor's report with a simplified, concise summary of total revenue, total liabilities, and under and over.

3. A full auditor's report be available upon request from the National FFA Center. 4. We thank Mr. David Miller, National Treasurer and Mr. Wilson Carnes, Administrative Director for their help and guidance in our committee meeting.

Respectfully submitted:
1986 Auditing Committee
Bruce Cobb, Texas, Chairman
Joyce Scott, Ohio, Co-Chairman
Ron Hostetler, Michigan
Frank Winslow, Maine
Tina Barnett, Delaware
Dennis Symons, New Jersey

New FFA Food Film

Sponsored by Kraft, Inc.

A new 10-minute film will be produced this year to supplement the Food For America program. The new FFA Food Film will look at the ingredients of a pizza to help explain agricultural production and processing to elementary school children.



The Collegiate Agriculture Education Development Committee

We, the members of the 1986 Collegiate Agriculture Education Committee, after having been oriented to the current conditions of the collegiate level of membership, feel that these conditions can be improved upon. After discussing the recommendations set forth by the 1985 Collegiate Ag Ed Committee and the advice of our consultants, we have reached the following recommendations:

1) The continuation of a national scholarship program under the auspices of the National FFA Foundation to recognize outstanding leadership and academic performances.

2) To continue holding an annual meeting in Kansas City, Missouri simultaneously with the National FFA Convention.

3) That an addition to our National Constitution be proposed which will better define the roles and type of membership entitled to Collegiate FFA members.

4) That the chair and the co-chair persons of the Ag Ed Committee attend a session of National Collegiate Ag Ed Conference to build better relationships and understanding of that organization and the Ag Ed Development Committee Reports to the delegates later in the week to allow for the committee to work with representatives of the National Collegiate Ag Ed Organization.

5) To include the Collegiate Ag Ed Development representatives of Collegiate FFA to foster a better understanding of the roles of both groups in establishing a stronger organization overall.

6) The National FFA invite a representative of the Collegiate Agriculture Education Organization to bring greetings to the convention along with other youth representatives.

7) To encourage all Ag Ed groups to become more involved with state level FFA functions.

8) Allow each state to nominate Collegiate Ag Ed members to serve in various capacities at the National FFA Convention, such as judging contests and the Courtesy Corps.

We, the members of the 1986 Ag Ed Development Committee after considerable discussion, hope that these recommendations will help to foster quality and excellence in the teachings of Vocational Agriculture.

Respectfully submitted,
Claude Paret, Vermont, Chairman
Darren Kittelson, Wisconsin, Co-Chairman
Leslie Danielson, Idaho, Secretary
Melissa Lopes, Massachusetts
Chris Reeves, Louisiana
Hugh Solomon Jr., North Carolina
Joe Payne, Nevada
Steve Davis, California

National Contest Committee

We, the National Contest Committee of the 59th National FFA Convention of the Future Farmers of America was a need for evaluation and possible restructuring of our National Contests. We see a need for the exercising of the skills and talents acquired by FFA members through Vocational Agriculture instruction. However, in light of constant innovations in our Agriculture industry, we feel the need to remain current with the changing times in Agriculture by preparing FFA members to be the leaders for the new fields of Agriculture.

We would like to thank the special committee for National Contests, particularly committee chairman Dr. Kirby Barrick, Ohio State University, for their discussion enlightening us to the issues facing the National Contests. We would like to express our support to them as they begin their 14 month analysis of the nationwide contests.

1. We recommend that in response to proposal of addition and/or deletion of National Contests that the Special Committee first investigate the following:

a. Purpose of the contest system as a whole
b. Purpose of the contest on an individual basis

c. Feasibility of new contests
2. In response to the need of procedure clarification, we recommend that the following be investigated:

a. Rules and proceedings of the contests
b. Committees that run each contest
c. The establishment of competency or minimum requirement test to ensure national participant qualification.

3. In light of the current economic situation, we recommend that the special committee give careful analysis to the financial feasibility of making changes in the national contest system.

4. Recognizing regional differences within the national scope of our organization, we recommend that the special committee investigate the possibility of regional contests for those contest areas not encompassing adequate participation due to the regional variety.

5. In their investigation, we see the following as important resources to be involved in the decisions of the special committee studying the national contests:

- a. Students
 - b. Agriculture educators
 - c. State staff members
 - d. National contest superintendents and their committees
 - e. Collegiate sponsors of the state contests
 - f. Industry sponsors
 - g. National Board and staff
 - h. Alumni association
 - i. Parents and other supporters
- Recognizing the challenges associated with this issue now facing the entire FFA organization, and realizing the importance

of the special committee for national contests, we hope that their impacting decisions, can and will be substantiated publicly in order to involve the FFA organization as a whole in these decisions which will effect all those involved with the Future Farmers of America.

Mary Wilson, Kansas, Chairman
Melissa Ransom, Oklahoma
Co-Chairman/Secretary
Mike Smith, Alaska
Maryanne Vogt, New York
Bronwyn Bishop, Alabama

Delegate Business

During the Business Session on Wednesday, the delegates voted to keep the dues at \$3.00. The delegates also accepted all the committee reports as read. They also referred the Contest Amendment to the Constitution to a study committee to report back in January of 1988.

The minutes of the 59th National FFA

Convention were read and accepted by the voting delegates and afterwards they witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation by the National Association of Conservation Districts, the National Vocational Agricultural Teachers Association and the FFA.



International Committee

We, the members of the International Programs Committee present the following recommendations for consideration to the 59th National Convention of the Future Farmers of America:

1. To have specific information about FFA, including grants available, accessible through the Ad-Ed Network
2. International Programs be incorporated as a twelfth standing committee in the program of activities
3. Encourage states to have recent WEA participants give a presentation(s) at the state convention
4. Advertise in order to encourage participants to seek college credits
5. Request that a detailed information packet, similar to BOAC and Food for America, be made available to individual chapters through the National FFA Supply Service
6. Specify one day during National FFA Week as International Day in order to promote International Programs
7. Encourage states to publicize in-bound and out-bound WEA participants
8. Present specialized visual media to local chapters through the cooperation of in-

ternational - national based corporations

9. Encourage state officers at NLC/SCO conferences and state presidents' conference to participate in the Young Farmers Clubs (YFC) exchange

10. Encourage states to seek recognition of participation in international programs by state officials (ie: governor and representatives)
11. Implement a shorter term program of approximately one month
12. Have host families recognized on the state level

We, the International Committee extend sincere thanks to Bruce Kane, Molly Wilson and Walter Upton for their input and advice on the matters of the International Committee.

Chris Wilder, Florida, Chairperson
 Marce Volk, North Dakota, Co-Chairman
 Mike Acker, Texas
 Michelle Davis, Idaho
 Lia Mullen, Wisconsin
 Lou Lansing
 Michael Milmine, Montana
 Sher Mino
 Wesley Sand, Oregon

Membership Development Committee

We, the Membership Development Committee of the 59th Annual National FFA Convention believe that recruitment of new members is essential to the growth and development of our organization.

We, believe in order for our organization to grow, involvement must be stimulated, and a challenging program developed which provides for the retention of students interested in FFA programs. We believe the aforementioned could be done by implementing major recommendations proposed by this national committee.

1. Promote the widespread use of the Agricultural Career Recruitment Program sponsored by Monsanto and prepared by the staff of the national organization.
2. Recommend the production of a brochure to be used to enlighten anyone from school board members, counselors, to chapter members of the positive preparation vocational agricultural programs can have on prospective college students. This brochure would also include information on a system establishing academic credits in math, science and/or public speaking, for participation in v-o-ag programs. This brochure will also incorporate the attitudes of colleges towards students with entrance requirements which have been met in this manner and a background of active FFA participation.



3. Promote an exploratory program in the 7th grade to introduce to prospective members the opportunities that await them if they become an active FFA member and v-o-ag student. Establishing a full 8th grade program, where feasible, would also increase enrollment.
- Information on a crediting system and exploratory programs are available through various state associations such as Virginia, Oregon, and Texas which have these programs.
- We believe that the adoption of these recommendations will initiate a significant change in the current membership trend and will insure the continued growth of the Future Farmers of America. Respectfully submitted,
 Eddie Miller, Missouri, Chairman
 Kathaleen M. Reed, Oregon, Co-Chairman
 Philip Baker, Tennessee
 Lee Nitting, Virginia
 Michele Sargent, New Hampshire
 David Wilson, Utah
 Pedro Rivera, Puerto Rico

National Awards Committee

We, the members of the National Award Program Committee, with the purpose of encouraging educational experiences beyond classroom activities in order to encourage, motivate and recognize achievement in agricultural career training, citizenship and cooperation while gaining leadership skills, by becoming involved in BOAC, proficiency awards, national chapter awards, safety and the degree program

1. We encourage chapter, state and national awards winners to write thank-yous to national award sponsors.
2. We recommend further study into the possibility of considering that pulpwood fall under the fiber crop proficiency award and that Christmas trees fall under the specialty crop proficiency award.
3. We reviewed the proficiency awards and found a need for an in-depth study dealing with the possibility of altering, de-

leting or creating award areas because of the vast and dramatic changes in the aspect of career opportunities in the agricultural industry of the United States of America

4. We suggest that the state associations review and follow the recommendations of the regional and national scoring committees and pass the information down to the local level.

5. We recommend that the national awards program be made as efficient as possible

6. To increase participation in Safety, BOAC, and the national chapter award, we recommend that the state associations establish an award program for chapters that participate in all three of the above award areas

7. To increase recognition, we recommend that chapters with national ratings in all three areas of BOAC, safety and national chapter be recognized by introduction at the national convention.

8. We recommend that a committee of state and national staff study the possibility of simplifying and standardizing the state degree application with the purpose of establishing consistency of the degree among the states

9. We recommend that the members of the Future Farmers of America extend a tremendous thank you to Mr. Robert Seefeldt, Program Specialist, Awards and state services and to Mr. Ted Amick, Program Specialist, Contests, for their outstanding service and commitment to our organization. The National Awards Program Committee believes that these recommendations are necessary to increase and insure the quality of the areas of BOAC, safety, national chapter, proficiency awards program and the degree program

We wish to thank the following state and national staff: Robert E. Junker, Indiana; Laura Grim, Idaho; Elton Witt, Illinois; and Kellie Mahrenholz, national staff consultant for their support and cooperation throughout this committee's session.
 Kathy Lineburg, Virginia, Chairperson
 Robert Powalski, Alaska, Co-Chairperson
 Charles Estes, Washington, Secretary
 Rila Arcard, Wisconsin
 Richard Amundson
 Scott Sooy, Ohio
 Robert Hanson



Alumni Committee

We, the delegates serving on the National FFA Alumni Committee wish to express our sincere thanks to Gary Maric, Robert Cox, Steve Brown, Richard Kaff, Larry Reese and Rick Metzger for their contribution and enthusiasm to our committee. We would also like to congratulate the alumni members for their outstanding services to the Future Farmers of America. We feel that the development of the FFA alumni affiliates throughout the country is of vital importance for the betterment and expansion of vocational agriculture.

The National FFA organization realizes that the key to success for the national, state and local alumni affiliates is for each organization to have a definite purpose. We therefore suggest the following items to help continue progress toward this purpose.

We, the alumni committee feel that the FFA men should concentrate its thrust towards local, state and national levels in order to help the FFA organization. We suggest the following items under each heading.

I. Chapters

a. Send letters of alumni information to seniors in local FFA chapters.

1. Encourage national organization to include year of student as a part of the membership roster.
2. Encourage FFA alumni to send information pamphlets to interested students.

b. Encourage alumni to establish incentive programs in local chapters.

1. To encourage a complimentary alumni membership in all honorary degree ceremonies.
2. Encourage alumni to give scholarships to members who participate in the local alumni chapters.

c. Encourage established alumni affiliates to help aid other affiliates.

An alumni is the key not only a successful FFA chapter but to the promotion of vocational agriculture.

II. State Organizations

a. Encourage state officers to promote alumni through goodwill tours, leadership conference camps, NLCSO, chapter visits and WCP program.

1. Encourage state officers to discuss benefits of alumni.
2. Encourage state officers to establish workshops on setting up alumni affiliates.

b. Encourage state officers and alumni officers to have annual meetings on the progress of both organizations.

c. Encourage state FFA Associations and alumni to hold state conventions during the same week.

d. Encourage the establishment of alumni workshops at state agriculture teachers meetings.

e. Encourage the establishment of alumni workshops at state conventions and contests.

f. Encourage collegiate groups to explore the possibilities of establishing a collegiate FFA alumni.

1. Encourage alumni to send letters of information to all collegiate groups.
2. Encourage alumni to set-up incentive programs for collegiate groups.
3. Encourage colleges to advise students to set up an alumni chapter where the students will student teach.

g. Encourage state associations to include alumni membership in honorary degree ceremonies. If the state officers continue to promote the alumni then we will indeed continue to achieve our goals of the FFA organization.

III National Organization

a. Encourage alumni to inform the NVATA on the benefits of an alumni affiliate at the chapter level.

1. Encourage alumni to establish a workshop at the annual NVATA meeting.
2. Encourage national recognition by FFA and alumni organizations.
3. Encourage recognition of lifetime members at the national FFA and alumni conventions.
4. Encourage recognition of state officer teams who work diligently to promote the alumni.

b. Encourage alumni to attend NLCSO and WCPs to educate state officers and other members on how to promote alumni in the states and in the chapters.

1. Encourage alumni to set up workshops showing specific ways to promote and start an alumni affiliate.
2. Encourage program directors of NLCSO and WCP to set up a casual meeting between alumni and FFA members.

c. Encourage the National FFA and alumni to continue holding the conventions during the same week.

The National FFA Alumni continues to strive to make Vocational Agriculture number 1. If we all work together as one, then we still achieve our goal.

We the National FFA Alumni Committee have worked diligently to produce suggestions for the benefit of the Future Farmers of America and Alumni organization. We hope that our suggestions can be utilized toward the expansion of Vocational agriculture. We challenge each of the members in the state association to establish a local alumni affiliate.

Respectfully submitted,
Kerry Chalisher, Connecticut, Chairman
Michael McIntosh, Louisiana, Co-Chairman
Dawn Rucker
Cara Nick, Kansas
Bill Blank, Pennsylvania
Patricia Port, South Carolina

The National FUTURE FARMER Magazine Committee

We the members of the 1986 NATIONAL FUTURE FARMER Magazine Committee, on behalf of the membership of the tradition and pride which has been incorporated into the magazine and its name, wish to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to The National FUTURE FARMERS Magazine staff and commend them on a job well done.

We feel The National FUTURE FARMER Magazine and staff have done a great job of informing the FFA organization, sponsors, and general public, about the activities and purposes of the FFA; and keeping in touch with the members and outlook of agriculture. After careful consideration, we submit the following recommendations:

- 1) Continue to encourage FFA members, alumni, state officers, and state staff to send in stories and articles.
- 2) We encourage the magazine staff to continue to monitor the readers interests and ideas.
- 3) We encourage chapters to purchase editions of The National FUTURE FARMER Magazine for annual alumni members, FFA supporters, and school officials.
- 4) We suggest the use of subtitles to better capture the attention of the reader.
- 5) We encourage putting students personal addresses only, on rosters in order that they may receive the magazine at their home. As a reminder to chapters to remember to fill out the roster, we suggest:

- a) A letter to the chapter advisors from Dr. Larry Case, National Advisor.
- b) A message directed toward advisors in "Between Issues."
- c) A message directed to members through The National FUTURE FARMER.

6) We suggest the following ideas for new articles:

- a) Have an article on collegiate FFA.
- b) Have an article contrasting agriculturalists of yesterday and today.
- c) Have a series of articles on history of the FFA.
- d) We suggest articles of different innovative leadership programs, from chapter and state levels.
- e) Articles pertaining to current agricultural issues.
- f) We suggest focusing an article on the growth of a greenhouse.

7) We suggest that a year-end report be submitted to the 1987 NATIONAL FUTURE FARMER Magazine Committee, regarding the action taken on the above points.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Millsap, Oklahoma, Chairman
Jeff Vance, Ohio, Co-Chairman
Leigh Loughhead, Arizona
Adrian Williams, Florida
Jim Pritchard, West Virginia
Julie Halverson, South Dakota
Leigha Fox, Arkansas
Nicholas Wells, California



Supply Service Committee

We, the members of the National FFA Supply Service Committee wish to express our appreciation for the fine job that the staff and employees of the Supply Service have done in the past, and would like to make the following recommendations for the future operation of that service.

Advertisements

- Silk ties
- Instructions for tying female scarves
- Field jacket similar to official jacket
- Pocket planner/calendar
- Reversible jacket
- Camouflage fluorescent
- License plate holder
- Golf hats
- Changes in supplies:
- Hal quality
- Wider state officer notebook
- Discontinue selling old student handbook.

Calendar Program

We encourage the supply service to continue with the present program of encouraging chapters to participate.

We would also like to thank Mr. Dennis Shater and Mrs. Debbie Quigley for their input on the matters discussed at this time.

Respectfully submitted
Lee Harris, Texas, Chairman
Keith McDougall, Utah, Co-Chairman
Buck Cesna, Maryland
Matthew Trembley, Vermont
Carl Wells, District of Columbia

National Informational Service Committee

We, the members of the 1986 National Informational Service Committee, make the following recommendations to improve and further develop the informational services of the national organization.

1. That information concerning the new and ever changing fields of agriculture be directed toward both internal and external audiences using non-traditional media (TV, contemporary and popular radio stations).
2. Review and evaluate the effectiveness of promotional informational funds directed toward the internal audience and consider relative benefits redirecting these resources to the external audience to promote the awareness of agriculture, vocational agriculture, and the Future Farmers of America.
3. That in order to encourage chapter



Coming Soon,
to a classroom near you...

STARRING PEPPERONI PIZZA
In his first leading role, the new 10-minute film spectacular will thrill elementary school children with the story of the agricultural food chain as seen through the eyes of a pizza.

Production of the Food Film is sponsored by Kroft, Inc. as a special project of the National FFA Foundation. It's the perfect complement to a dynamic Food For America program.

WATCH FOR IT!

It's the New FFA Food Film!

awareness and involvement, regularly send a synopsis drafted to the chapter president of the pertinent information the chapter has received, which should be discussed with the chapter members.

4. To encourage the chapters to utilize *The National Future FARMER Magazine* as an informational, promotional and recruitment tool.

a. Make the magazine available at a reduced rate (member cost) to be able to provide complimentary subscriptions to the key supporters such as school board members, administrators, guidance counselors, and local businessmen.

b. Use the magazine as a recruitment tool by displaying or making it available to prospective members.

5. We thank the Staff of the Information Services, Mr. Bill Stapp, Director, Miss Rachel Vining, Information Intern, and Miss Roni Horan, Information Program Assistant, for their hard work and development of the Agricultural Career Recruitment Program. FFA week material and public service announcements.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Wilcox, Wyoming, Chairman
Brian Mullins, Missouri, Co-Chairman
Michael G. Burton, Indiana
Shelia Briddle, Pennsylvania
Rocco Carroccio, Montana
Ricki Dorman, Alabama
Linda Tetreault, Rhode Island

National Issues Committee

We, the members of the National Issues Committee have met to identify, clarify, and discuss the issues facing the national organization presently and issues of the future.

I. Addition of a National Officer
We feel that an additional national officer is unnecessary whereas the present number of officers is sufficient to meet the needs of the national organization.

II. Emblem Change
We as a committee wish to reemphasize the importance of the symbolism of our national emblem, therefore we do not recommend any change of the organization's emblem.

III. The FFA Creed
We feel that if revisions of the Creed are to be made they should be in the fifth paragraph in the following way by striking out the words rural America and inserting American agriculture so that the paragraph would read in the following manner. "I believe that American Agriculture can and will hold true to the best traditions of our national life and that I can exert an influence in my home and community which will stand solid for my part in that inspiring task."

IV. State Farmer Degree
The committee acknowledged and addressed the proposed amendment to Article IV, Section D. We feel the 3% maxi-

mum quota should be dropped only in the event that the state associations raise or maintain present qualifications so that the state farmer degree is still a prestigious honor or achievement.

V. Name Change
We, the committee feel that this is the prevalent issue facing our organization. After lengthy discussion and consideration we conclude that the problem lies not in our organization's name, but in our organization's image, therefore we do not recommend a name change. However, we recommend the following strategies to improve our image.

Support and promote present programs such as Food For America, and Think About It.

Intensify efforts to educate adults as to the numerous careers available through agriculture. Emphasize the fact that although less than 3% of our nation's population are involved in production agriculture, over 20% of the nation's work force is employed in an ag related industry.

We feel the need to educate guidance counselors, educators, legislators and parents because of the obvious importance of agriculture in our nation.

We also wish to reiterate the 1985 Issues Committee recommendation - That Vocational Agriculture be revised to qualify for business or science credit in the high school curriculum. Furthermore we propose an additional chapter awards program that would be specifically concerned with public relations and promotion of the organization (the FFA) in the chapter's community and state. The awards might be issued on local, state, and national levels.

The purpose being to promote Vocational Agriculture and the FFA to those unaware of our programs.

We, the 1986 National Issues Committee report in hopes that our recommendations will be of benefit to our members and organization.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle McCall, North Carolina, Chairman
Lucy Davis, Texas, Secretary
Roger Seedorf, Colorado, Co-Chairman
Edgar Barks, Kentucky
Brad Lewis, Alabama
B.J. Elliott, West Virginia
Shane Stewart, Oklahoma
Scott Stotze, Nebraska

National Leadership Conferences Committee

Washington Conference Program
We, the members of the National Leadership Conference Committee have carefully analyzed and evaluated the 1986 Washington Conference Program and State Presidents' Conference. With our primary objective being to improve the leadership training at these conferences for our fellow FFA members. We do hereby submit the following recommendations.

1. We recommend that the conference staff encourage more exchange of ideas between Washington Conference Program participants by:
a. Continuing to separate participants from the same chapter or state when making lodging arrangements.

b. Creating a casual mixer which is broken into small groups.
c. Offering a formal idea exchange session for chapter and state activities.
2. Encourage the conference to continue activities to develop the national organization to be a stronger emphasis on teamwork and hold more activities dealing with cooperation.

3. We recommend the conference staff spend more time explaining the National FFA award programs, activities and services to the participants and encourage them to relay this information to their fellow chapter members.

4. We request that staff members continue to utilize national officer talents and skills by requiring the presence of two national officers during each of the conferences and encouraging them to interact with WCP participants on a one-on-one basis.

5. We recommend that advisors who have not participated in a conference recently be encouraged to attend. We believe that these recommendations will indeed help us as we prepare leaders for the new fields of Agriculture.

Respectfully submitted,
Scott Kurfin, New Mexico, Chairman
Wayne Thompson, Mississippi, Co-Chairman
Terri Hardee, Texas
Brian Hicks, Minnesota
Brent Buck, Maine
Scott Kurfin, Illinois
Noel Bonds, Nevada

a. Producing a promotional film or slide show about WCP.
b. Giving promotional materials to the state officers at NLCSO's to utilize during their chapter visits.
7. We recommend that the National FFA organization help alleviate the cost of the program by:

a. Encouraging state and national alumni to provide funds for WCP scholarships.
b. Providing chapters with ideas and information to utilize while soliciting sponsors in their local communities.
c. Encouraging the national organization to negotiate with businesses in order to obtain discounted travel and lodging rates.
d. Requesting the national organization to evaluate the budget to avoid overcharging the WCP participants.
e. Recommending that certificates of appreciation be distributed to the supporters of WCP participants.

8. We recommend that the directors of WCP review and update the pamphlets and brochures by:
a. Dedicating more space and attention to the advisor's schedule.
b. Providing personal comments from past WCP participants.
c. Including the biographical data of directors and staff.
d. Removing the specific emphasis that the conference is primarily for chapter presidents.

9. We recommend that a specific session be used so participants can learn how to report and share ideas that they obtain during the WCP.

State Presidents' Conference
We encourage the national organization to continue utilizing national officers as conference directors and increase the number of past national officers to share motivational and inspirational material with the delegates.

2. We recommend that the conference directors provide more information by:
a. Emphasizing the different career opportunities in agriculture.
b. Explaining the possibilities and solutions of Vocational Agriculture and the Future Farmers of America.
c. Continuing to provide question and answer sessions on the FFA and agricultural issues.

3. We recommend that states be prepared to submit a specific concern, upon arrival in Washington, D.C., with the directors to be used during the issue and answer committees.

4. We recommend that WCP counselors treat state presidents conference participants in a mature and adultlike manner so the participants can express their maturity and professionalism.

5. We encourage counselors and staff members to observe and closely follow the scheduled agenda to all activities and appointments can go up ahead.

6. We recommend that news releases and pictures be given directly to participants

to utilize at their own discretion.
To follow up the 1986 National Leadership Conference, we recommend the following resolution go on record at the 59th National FFA Convention:

1. Be it resolved that the National Leadership Committee at the national convention be provided a summary of the resolutions of the Washington Conference Program and the State President's Conference in order to make more educated and informed decisions.

2. Be it resolved that the National FFA Organization sincerely appreciate the efforts, cooperation, and support of all the people involved in the planning, executing and funding of the Washington Conference Program and the State FFA Alumni for the scholarships they sponsored, as well as, the Chevrolet Division of the General Motors Corporation for their sponsorship of the State FFA Presidents' Conference.

As members of the National Leadership Committee we sincerely hope to believe that these recommendations will indeed help us as we prepare leaders for the new fields of Agriculture.

Respectfully submitted,
David Farnham, New Mexico, Chairman
Wayne Thompson, Mississippi, Co-Chairman
Terri Hardee, Texas
Brian Hicks, Minnesota
Brent Buck, Maine
Scott Kurfin, Illinois
Noel Bonds, Nevada

National Leadership Conferences For State Officers Committee

We as a committee would like to commend the National Officers and National Staff for their cooperation in the guidelines and presentation of the NLCSO programs.

We feel that the following were effective techniques and activities and recommend that the newly elected officer team continue them. National Officers would continue their staff state before and during the conference as they did this year. Continue the impromptu speaking workshops, committee projects, self confidence building, banquet and preference survey. We as a committee also recognize certain problems:

Problem: Particular associations are being denied participation in NLCSO programs because of conflicting schedules. For example - the northwestern area. In order to facilitate the participating state officer such as in the northwestern area the NLCSO program date be moved earlier.

Problem: We as a committee see that insufficient time is spent on practical skills and knowledge.

Solution: We recommend that the following programs be combined or condensed - the resource system, telephone communicating and traveling tips. Problem: Staff find the issues and the answers sessions in some cases lack structure.

Solution: Instead of a general issues and answers session, we recommend having a scheduled limited debate dividing groups with given sides to argue.

Problem: Officers are not being sufficiently prepared for practical situations. Solution: National officers should train state officers to plan a chapter visit, district conference, chapter officer training conference or greenhand conference. Methods could be used of a case study of hypothetical situations being presented.

We as a committee recommend the reinforcement of the quiet bowl. We also recommend that the national officers contact hosting states two weeks before the conference.

Respectfully submitted,
David Dam, Nebraska, Chairman
C.J. Elkins, North Carolina, Co-Chairman
Stephen Tynley, Georgia
Bill Hollis, Illinois
Brad Chambliss, Kentucky
Alicia Horan, Rhode Island
Judy Hamby, Tennessee
Marly Copeland, New Mexico

1986 National FFA Program Of Activities Committee

We, the members of the 1986 National FFA Program of Activities Committee, have carefully studied the format and con-

tent of the FFA's National Program of Activities, and respectfully submit the following recommendations for its improvement:

1. Encourage better communication between staff members and state officers in regard to disbursement of National FFA Award Meeting Minutes, National FFA Alumni Association Board Meeting Minutes, proposed Constitutional Amendments, and other pertinent information distributed by the National FFA organization.

2. Provide for in-service instruction to state FFA and state staff members prepared by national FFA officers and staff members on such activities as NLCSO's, State President's Conference and State Staff Members Conference. These in-services should deal with areas of BOCAL, National FFA Award Program, National Chapter Safety Program, the National FFA Program of Activities, the National FFA Budget, etc.

3. Make special provisions to make the National FFA Budget more understandable by inserting a few explanatory pages to aid in its interpretation.

4. Consider creating a National Leadership Intern position at the National FFA Center to assist in administration of national activities.

5. Develop a motion picture or video cassette tape geared toward assisting prospective local FFA Alumni Affiliates on how to become organized and established.

6. Sponsor the National FFA Program of Activities that Alumni Association membership opportunities are offered to National FFA Foundation sponsors.

7. We commend the National FFA Board of Directors and Staff on their establishment of a committee to carry out an in-depth study of all National FFA Contests and Awards Programs.

8. Establish a permanent policy for the notification of National Board and Chorus activities to their respective schools, scheduling and practices, etc. We recommend this information should reach these individuals no later than sixty days prior to the corresponding National Convention.

9. We commend the National FFA Organization for its establishment and maintenance of an outstanding National Hall of Achievement.

10. Consult with appropriate individuals, specifically elementary school teachers, on the development of a program similar to classroom materials. Useful information may also be obtained from the American Farm Bureau Federation and the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Education.

11. Establish a more concise format for the completion of the entries for Agriculture Awards Program modeled after that of the Agri-Science Teacher of Year Award Program explanation (pg. 14). This should include specifying the selection and awarding of individual state winners.

12. Reconsider the recommendation of the 1985 National Program of Activities Committee to reinstate *The National Future FARMER* insignia regarding opportunities and awards available directly to members.

13. Provide for greater awareness and recognition of National FFA Academic Scholarships.

14. Consider the establishment of an interschool exchange program similar to WEA for exchange and work experience among FFA members within the United States.

15. Establish a standard policy on the sale and/or distribution of the National FUTURE FARMER mailing list to outside parties.

16. Provide the National FFA Program of Activities with an attractive cover for all state FFA officers at NLCSO's and have copies accessible to local chapters.

In closing, we have found the format and organization of the National FFA Program of Activities to be very acceptable, and we commend the National FFA Staff for keeping this document orderly and up-to-date.

We gratefully acknowledge our National Staff Consultants, Mr. C. Coleman Harris, and our state staff consultants, Mr. Ron Crawford of Washington, Mr. Ronald Wilson of West Virginia, and Mr. Mark Willie of Vermont for their advice and assistance. Respectfully submitted,
Maureen Barber, Iowa, Chairperson
Michael Fossum, South Dakota, Co-Chairperson
Allison Dornan, California
Norm Peckham, Connecticut
Robert Partley, Texas
Greg Long, Georgia
Keith Fujikawa, Hawaii
Dana Degano, Delaware

FFA TIMES

Sponsored by Jacques Seed Company



This was the FFA TIMES sixth year of providing daily news and information during the convention.

The paper was read by nearly 20,000 members, advisors, sponsors and others attending convention sessions. The paper had the breaking news the convention, such as the announcement of the Stars of America and the time to do behind-the-scenes feature stories.

A staff of about fifteen college students were provided photography, edited and oversaw the printing of the FFA TIMES. Most of the staff were past FFA members who have attended previous conventions. The editor this year was Rachel Vining, National FFA Information Staff Intern.

FFA members volunteered as FFA TIMES carriers to distribute the FFA TIMES during the week.

After each convention the FFA TIMES is mailed to every chapter in the country as a record of the week in Kansas City.